

THE *SOUTHERN SPORTS* EDITION

May 2023 Edition



G DAY



Georgia Tech's Spring Game



Does MLB Need Postseason Changes?



SEC Stadiums Ranked



MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL



Complimentary Waterford Vase with any Purchase of \$250 or More

EST. 1916
CUNNINGHAMS
BRUNSWICK, GA
FINE JEWELRY • CHINA • GIFTS

Cunningham Jewelers - Historic Downtown Brunswick - 912-265-8652

GET TO KNOW THE WRITERS



KIPP BRANCH

Kipp Branch graduated from Valdosta State University where he also pitched for the Blazers. Kipp serves as one of the voices on the Brunswick High Pirates radio broadcast and is known affectionately as "Mr. Brunswick High". Kipp also co-hosts 'The Jason Bishop Show w Kipp Branch', south Georgia's most listened to sports talk show



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.



GARRISON RYFUN

Garrison Ryfun was born and raised in Brunswick, GA. Garrison graduated from the College of Coastal Georgia with a Bachelor's Degree in American Studies with a concentration in Communications. Garrison has been the Glynn Academy Red Terrors Football Radio Color Analyst since 2016.



ROBERT CRAFT

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



STEVE NORRIS

Steve Norris graduated from Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville with a Bachelor's Degree in Communications/Broadcasting. Steve has spent time in TV and has also been a sports writer for the Macon Telegraph and currently contributes to the Midday Sports Zone out of Macon.



JASON BISHOP

Jason Bishop graduated from Kennesaw State University and formerly worked for CNN Sports. Jason is currently the voice of the Camden County Wildcats football team and co-hosts 'The Jason Bishop Show w Kipp Branch', south Georgia's most listened to sports talk show.

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS: JEFF DOKE AND JOE DELANEY

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.

SSE STAFF

Publisher

The Bishop Media Sports Network

Editor

Jason Bishop

Graphic Design

George Alread

Columnists

Jeff Doke	Robert Craft
Kipp Branch	Garrison Ryfun
Joe Delaney	Steve Norris
Kenneth Harrison, Jr	Jason Bishop

Photographer

Mike Brinson



IN THIS ISSUE...

G-DAY

GEORGIA PLAYS ANNUAL SPRING GAME

PAGE 4

by Kipp Branch

SPRING BUZZING

GEORGIA TECH SPRING GAME

PAGE 8

by Kenneth Harrison

UNFAIR WILDNESS

MLB POSTSEASON CHANGES NEEDED

PAGE 12

by Steve Norris

FROM WHERE I'M SITTING

SEC STADIUMS RANKED

PAGE 14

by Kipp Branch

PRACTICE GAME

IN-STATE SPRING SCRIMMAGES?

PAGE 18

by Garrison Ryfun

BECK-ONED STARTER

UGA'S NEW STARTING QUARTERBACK

PAGE 20

by Robert Craft

ON THE CLOCK

NFL DRAFT PREDICTIONS

PAGE 24

by Kipp Branch

SPRING PANTHERS

GEORGIA STATE SPRING GAME

PAGE 26

by Kenneth Harrison



DAY



MARSHLAND

CREDIT UNION

Proud Supporters of the Communities We Serve



A Better Way To Bank

912.279.2000

www.MarshlandCU.com

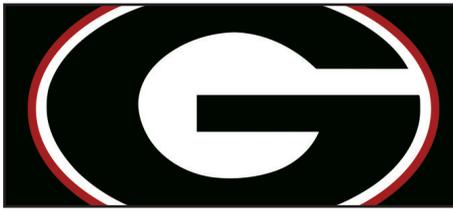
Brunswick-Jesup-Nahunta-Rincon





G-DAY

Georgia Plays Annual Spring Game By Kipp Branch



The Georgia Bulldogs played their annual G-day Spring Game earlier in the month.

The Red team beat the Black team by a score of 31-26. Arian Smith scored two touchdowns, one rushing and one receiving. Carson Beck got the start at quarterback and certainly looked like a starting quarterback as he finished 13-18 for 211 yards and a touchdown on the day.

Great weather was on hand. "Boom" was introduced as the new mascot. One side of the stadium was filled. The home side was closed due to off season upgrades to Sanford Stadium that are under construction.

The 2022 National Champions got their rings. Overall, it was just an enjoyable day for football in Athens, Georgia.

G-Day Thoughts:

1. This is Carson Beck's team in 2023. He is going to be the man and showed off a rocket arm and carried himself like a seasoned QB.

His body language is confident. This guy has waited his turn and has won the starting QB job for the University of Georgia.

2. Gunner Stockton looked better than Brock Vandagriff. This will be an interesting battle to follow in the fall camp if one does not transfer out before April 30th when the portal closes.

3. The Tight End group is phenomenal. Brock Bowers is picking up right where he left off.

Oscar Delp and Lawson Luckie make this the top group in the country at their position.

Could a TE win the Heisman?

4. Roderick Robinson is going to be a beast at RB. Another in the extensive line of great running backs at UGA. He is big at 235 pounds and is fast.

5. The WR group is deep and talented. No Rara Thomas but he is serving some internal discipline, if you read between the lines and will be ready this fall.

6. The offensive line will compete against anyone at anytime and will dominate. Starting unit could be the best in the country.

7. Special teams looked ok. Count me as officially worried about the FG kicker position.

8. Fifty-seven total points combined in a spring game tells me the offense will be purring under Mike Bobo.

Bobo was never a problem at UGA before. His offenses always produce. In those days UGA could not stop a dripping faucet on defense.

Kirby has cured that.

9. The first-year defenders are as talented of a group that UGA has ever recruited in one class. The UGA defense will be dominant this fall once again.

10. The schedule suits Carson Beck perfectly this fall. Four straight home games before a road trip against Auburn on September 23rd.

11. Bear Alexander hit the portal. This may hurt on the defensive line. Christen Miller, Jordan Hall, and Jamaal Jarrett looked good on the defensive line which explains some of the rumors on why Bear was looking elsewhere.

12. Kirby stated before the game that he wanted to sling the football all over the field to see where the QB's were in their development.

UGA has a couple of RB's injured and they know they can run the football behind that offensive line. Their plan was to work on the passing game and that is what went down.

13. Bullet point thirteen is in honor of Stetson Bennett, who will be the only QB drafted in the 2023 NFL Draft who was a starting QB for a national championship football team.

In fact, he did it on back-to-back occasions. No other QB in the upcoming draft brings those intangibles to the table.

UGA should compete for a third straight national title this fall. Times are good in the Classic City!





Helping Athletes Stay Mentally Fit

Between practice, planning and play, it may be difficult for coaches to recognize an athlete struggling with depression, burnout, anxiety, or other mental health issues. “Because the primary focus is on physical performance, mental health can slip through the cracks,” says Renita Wheeler, ATC. Ms. Wheeler is a certified athletic trainer (ATC) with the Southeast Georgia Health System Sports Medicine department, serving the College of Coastal Georgia. “We all know mental health is important, but we don’t always address it. Unfortunately, there’s still a stigma.”

Athletic trainers are able to help and can serve as liaisons between the sports community and health services. “Athletic trainers foster a safe place for athletes. In addition to making referrals to orthopaedists, we are also able to make referrals to mental health services,” Ms. Wheeler adds.

How do you know if an athlete is struggling, and when do you intervene?

“Every situation is different, but one sign I’ve noticed is the athlete who has ‘it all figured out’. Sports fosters an environment of compulsion – everything is mapped and planned out. These athletes have high expectations for themselves, and a hectic schedule, but may not have the family support or resources necessary to transition successfully from high school to college,” Ms. Wheeler explains.

When working with athletes, try to learn about their past. “A big indicator for potential mental health problems is past trauma,” Ms. Wheeler says. It’s not easy, but learning about their background – family, socioeconomic status, school performance, social experiences – improves your working relationship with the athlete. If necessary, you can refer them to support services, such as the school counselor.

Isolation is another red flag. Take note if your athlete is disengaged and you’re not getting at least 75% effort. Likewise, “If an athlete is injured and wants to linger in the training room, even if they’re healing well, that’s cause for concern.” And consider your team culture. A supportive, welcoming environment is less likely to encourage bullying or hazing. “You want your team to be tight, like a family,” adds Ms. Wheeler.

Communication helps athletes cope, but Ms. Wheeler acknowledges, “Kids only listen to who they want to.” She recommends bringing in other athletes as workshop speakers or mentors. “Maybe it’s alumni, a former athlete to talk about their transition to college sports, or a professional athlete. They can mirror what the next level should look like, discuss the demands and expectations of transitioning from high school to college sports, and answer kids’ questions.”

Coaches play a big role in keeping athletes physically and mentally fit, but they don’t have to go it alone. “Athletic trainers are in the business of people. We’re liaisons between coaches, players and multidisciplinary health providers. If we can’t help you, we can point you in the right direction,” Ms. Wheeler says.

For more information about the Southeast Georgia Health System Sports Medicine program, call 912-466-5745 or visit sghs.org/SportsMedicine.





BRUNSWICK

ADVENTURES

Trampoline Park Now Open

Birthday Party/Meeting Rooms Available

Bounce Houses for 12 and under

**5581 Habersham Street
(912) 342-7427**



**TWO EXPERTS.
ONE GOAL.**

T&B

TUCKER & BROWNING LLP, PC

tuckerandbrowning.com



SPRING BUZZING

Georgia Tech Spring Game By Kenneth Harrison



Georgia Tech played their 2023 Spring Game on April 15. This was the first spring game for head coach Brent Key. He took over as interim head coach last season after Geoff Collins was fired.

The Yellow Jackets started the 2022 season 1 – 3. Key went 4 – 4, which led to Tech removing the interim tag.

The program has been in disarray since Paul Johnson retired after the 2018 season. That was also the last time they played in a bowl game.

They look to get back on track in 2023. Let's take a look at the White and Gold Spring Game.

The White and Gold teams were divided with offensive and defensive players on each team, rather than one team with all offense and another with all defensive players. It gave the players a chance to play in a different format than they had in practice.

Key was looking for the players to focus all their energy on themselves and to execute the plays. "I thought we did a good job of that," Key said.

Freshman quarterback Zach Pyron was the first quarterback on the field. He operated out of the shotgun for much of the drive. There were a lot of two tight end sets and UGA transfer Brett Seither was splitting out wide often.

Pyron got the team down to the eight-yard line and running back Dontae Smith carried it in to give 'Team Wreck'Em' an early lead.

After that, Texas A&M transfer Haynes King took the field as QB for 'Team Swarm'. He is a former four-star recruit and he showed flashes of that. He led the team down to the goal line but the defense stepped up and forced a 4th and goal. King hit Avery Boyd for a touchdown and tied the game.

Pyron finished the game 11 for 16, 153 yards and one touchdown.

King was 4-11 for 94 yards on Team Swarm, 9-11 185 yards and two touchdowns on Team Wreck'Em. Zach Gibson was 5 for 7 with 64 yards.

Junior running back Trey Cooley led all rushers with 59 yards on eight carries. Jamie Felix had seven

carries for 29 yards, Smith had five carries for 27 yards, Evan Dickens had six carries for 24 yards.

Malik Rutherford led all receivers with seven catches for 154 yards. D.J. Moore had four catches for 92 yards, Boyd had two catches for 66 yards, Dylan Leonard had four catches for 43 yards, and Christian Leary finished with three catches for 35 yards.

Both Sirad Bryant and Ahmari Harvey finished with six tackles.

Team Wreck 'Em won the game 42 - 24.

Were there good things in the scrimmage? Key answered that by saying, "yeah there were good things, and we made some plays on both sides of the football." Key laughingly noted that there were calls that the referees could have made that they missed. "No penalties, that's huge," Key said with a smile. "I don't know how that happened today."

The offense looked good in the scrimmage. Only time will tell if that will be the case when they play other teams. The season kicks off Friday, September 1st against Louisville. If he can do that Tech will return to a program that consistently plays in bowl games.





LUCKE FURNITURE OUTLET

5411 Altama Ave
Brunswick, GA
912.571.0731



Refrigeration • Marine • Air Conditioning
Heating • Residential • Commercial
Duct Cleaning • Service & Installation

AIR ADJUSTERS



(912) 264-9747
www.airadjusters.com



5225 HWY 40 E ST • ST MARYS
912.882.5005

Your Local Technet Shop

DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS

MARSHSIDE
GRILL



1200 GLYNN AVENUE • BRUNSWICK, GA
912.342.7981

www.MARSHSIDEGRILL.com



GOLDEN ISLES PHARMACY

DRIVE-THRU • PRESCRIPTIONS • COMPOUNDING

Conveniently located right down from the hospital
Free Delivery To Brunswick and St. Simons



912.266.8140

3010 Altama Ave • Brunswick, GA 31520



UNFAIR WILDNESS

MLB Postseason Changes Needed By Steve Norris



I'm still not over it.

It was October 12th, 1997. The Atlanta Braves were in Miami, Florida for Game 5 of the National League Championship Series and looking to take a 3-2 series lead back to Atlanta with Greg Maddux on the mound.

Maddux had already lost Game 1 at home to Kevin Brown, so Atlanta needed their ace to get revenge on Brown.

However, just before the game, Brown was scratched due to illness and replaced with Livan Hernandez.

What followed is arguably the most controversial game in Braves history. The late Eric Gregg umpired that game and decided for some reason to widen his already wide strike zone, especially to left-handed batters.

This hurt the Braves far more as they had six left-handed batters to the Marlins three. Hernandez was the benefactor and outdueled Maddux 2-1, ending the game on a strikeout of Fred McGriff, where the third strike was at least a foot outside.

If you don't believe me, do a search for it on YouTube. You'll be shocked how awful that strike zone was that day.

The Braves would surrender the series to Brown at home two days later 7-4, in yet another first inning implosion by Glavine, while the Marlins would go on to upset the favored Cleveland Indians for the World Series title.

It was a devastating loss for Braves fans, especially after their World Series collapse to the Yankees the previous year.

The fact is, that loss to the Marlins should have never happened

in the first place. The Marlins had no business being in the playoffs. They finished 9 games behind the Braves who had won 101 games during the regular season. But thanks to the silliness of the Wild Card, they not only got a chance to beat the Braves, but they were also able to earn the home field advantage by winning just one of the first two games in Atlanta in the NLCS.

Fast forward to last year's playoffs and the same thing happened to the Braves against the Phillies, except this time it was worse. The hated Phillies finished 14 games... yes...FOURTEEN GAMES behind the Braves.

Yet, when they faced off in the National League Division Series, they were given the opportunity to win one game in Atlanta and immediately get home field advantage in a five-game series.



The Phillies would tee off on Braves ace Max Fried, who was pitching while suffering from the flu, and would win the game 7-6. The Braves would not recover and would go on to lose three games to one.

All of this after playing 162 games.

How does that make sense? Why would a team, who not only failed to win the division, but finished way out of first place, be given such an easy chance to get home field advantage?

Logic says they shouldn't. In fact, it's my opinion that it's time to

make the wild card teams work harder to win a playoff series.

Here's my proposal for the baseball playoffs: Any time a wild card team is facing a division winner in a playoff series, the division winner should get three more home games than the wild card team.

For example, if a division winner is playing a wild card team in the National or American League Division Series, the division winner should get four home games to the wild card teams' one.

If it's the National or American League Championship Series, the division winner should get five home games to the wild card winners' two. This would force the wild card team to have to win two away games no matter what. If they can do that, then they've earned the home field advantage.

As for the World Series, that

can stay at four games to three no matter who ends up there as a wild card team would have earned their way there by then.

It's time for Major League Baseball to make the regular season important again if they're going to keep letting all these wild card teams in.

Unfortunately, it's run by Rob Manfred, arguably the most incompetent commissioner in sports history, so I don't see him getting a clue any time soon.



FROM WHERE I'M SITTING

SEC Stadiums Ranked By Kipp Branch





I pretty much think about football year-round these days.

Yes, it is early in the 2023 baseball season, and basketball playoffs are starting our greatest game in this country is football, and in this part of the world it is SEC Football in the greatest conference ever created.

I have been to many SEC football stadiums over the years and here are my rankings from 14 to 1 in the most intimidating scale.

14. Vanderbilt: FirstBank Stadium is the only stadium in the SEC where the visiting team is the home team on Saturdays in the fall.

It is formerly known as Dudley Field. Vandy has struggled in football for so long that I don't know when the trend will change. Vandy fans just don't turn out for home games.

13. Kroger Field/Kentucky: My saying is that in college football if you have a stadium named after a corporation then you don't have much of a home field advantage. The Wildcats home field is named after a grocery store. Go figure.

12. Faurot Field/Missouri: Can someone explain to me again why Missouri is in the SEC?

Can have some juice at times for night games but not a hard place to win at.

11. Davis-Wade Stadium/Mississippi State: Without the cowbells this place is just above Vanderbilt.

MSU is a historic bottom-feeder in the conference with a stadium that seats around 60k.

10. Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium/Arkansas: I can only remember the place being loud only once and that is when Texas played there in 2021. Other than that, it always looks half full on the TV most of the time.

9. Vaught-Hemingway Stadium/Ole Miss: Ole Miss is a tough place to visit these days with Lane Kiffin running the show.

It is one of the smaller stadiums in the conference capacity wise, but holds its own on big game days.

8. Williams-Brice Stadium/South Carolina: When the Chickens are good this place rocks, just ask Tennessee last fall when their playoff hopes were crushed at South Carolina.

They have a loyal loud fanbase, but when things go bad at home, they will find their car keys and get gone as quick as anyone.

7. Kyle Field/Texas A&M: Bigger is not always better. Yes, Kyle Field holds over 100K, and it has its moments. It is the least intimidating big stadium in the country.

6. Neyland Stadium/Tennessee: Neyland has its moments... like Alabama in 2022, but over the past decade it just hasn't had much bite at all. Another historic 100K venue that was built in 1921. Could start rising again on this list soon.

5. Sanford Stadium/Georgia: I had season tickets in the 1990's.

Sanford has its moments like Auburn 2007, LSU 2013, and Tennessee in 2022. It has become more intimidating during the Kirby tenure but still has too many wine and cheese fans that attend for the social aspects

of posting a social media picture, etc. rather than being hard core college football fans.

4. Ben Hill Griffin Stadium/Florida: When the Gators are good The Swamp is a hostile environment that is very intimidating.

All of you Georgia fans that say move the game UGA/UF out of Jacksonville to home and home better be careful on what you wish for. You have been warned.

3. Bryant-Denny Stadium/Alabama: Alabama is always going to be a tough place to play. Always has been and always will be. History, national titles, and a 100K seat stadium make it so.

2. Tiger Stadium/LSU: You do not want to roll in here at night. Period end of story. Well documented on how tough this environment is.

1. Jordan-Hare Stadium/Auburn: Ask Nick Saban if he likes playing at Auburn?

Ask any coach in the SEC if they like playing at Jordan-Hare, even if Auburn is bad?

When Auburn is rolling this is the most intimidating place in the SEC to play. Jordan-Hare is loud and the fans are loyal and show up to yell rather than sip wine and take photos.

Hugh Freeze is about to remind us on how intimidating Jordan-Hare is over the next decade.



FINE DINING • WINE BAR • PIANO ENTERTAINMENT



Open Daily at 5pm
Online Reservations at GeorgiaSeaGrill.com



STRETCH ZONE

RECOVERING FROM A LONG YEAR?

Make Stretching a Part Of Your New Health and Wellness Routine. Stop By and Experience the Difference Stretching Can Make in Your Life.

FIRST STRETCH IS ON US

912.268.2495 • Shops of Sea Island • St. Simons Island



SOUTHERN TIDE

SOUTHERN TIDE SIGNATURE STORE
ST. SIMONS

MONDAY-SATURDAY | 10AM-6PM

SCAN TO FOLLOW US



VISIT US IN STORE AT

600 Sea Island Road, Suite 10,
St Simons Island, GA 31522
912.434.6140



FLIP ZONE
TRAMPOLINE & Fun Park

Mention This Code and get
10% off Jump and Bump.

FlipMay

Laser Tag • Trampoline Park • Soft Play
Arcade • Bumper Cars • And more!
Plan your birthday party with us!

flipzonega.com • 912.456.5115 • Cypress Mill Plaza in Brunswick





Altama Pharmacy
Brunswick, GA

Welcoming New Customers Daily

5711 Altama Avenue • 912-264-2622





912-265-8674
485 Warren Mason Blvd
Brunswick, GA
(Behind KFC and Racetrack on 341)

Tires - Brakes - A/C - Suspension - Minor Mechanic Work



Juicy Seafood



114 Golden Isles Plaza
Brunswick, GA 31520
Tel. 912-456-3037
912-456-3038
www.hungrycrabga.com

OPEN HOUR
Sun - Thurs: 11:30am - 10:00pm
Fri - Sat: 11:30am - 11:00pm

VISIT US ON  



Home Of The World Famous Mack's Fries



912.275.8271
6900 New Jesup Hwy
(In the Strickland Plaza, Bar Now Open!)

 Like us on Facebook



THE AUBURN NIL COLLECTIVE
ONTOVICTORY.COM

AUBURN TIGERS.COM



THE AUBURN NIL COLLECTIVE
ONTOVICTORY.COM



PRACTICE GAME

In-State Spring Scrimmages? By Garrison Ryfun

AUBURN TIGERS.COM

THE AUBURN NIL COLLECTIVE
ONTOVICTORY.COM



On Monday last week, Hugh Freeze pitched the idea of playing a scrimmage in the Spring against another school: "Allow us to scrimmage somebody on a day." Bringing up the attention and revenue it could bring, the decrease in risk of injury for both schools, and the benefits to seeing your guys in action against a different group of players.

Freeze even mentioned going against in-state teams like Troy, UAB, or Alabama State, to which new UAB Head Coach Trent Dilfer responded saying: "Pretty, pretty, pretty, pretty please." He saw the benefits of live competition between teams and perceived it to be a benefit for his team as well. Dilfer mentioned the benefits of scrimmaging a team that is seen as superior to yours. Troy Head Coach Jon Sumrall was also on board with the idea saying: "I wouldn't have a problem with it. I'd go play."

This is not the first time the idea of scrimmaging against another school has come up in college football.

Dabo Swinney publicly pitched the idea in 2012, with then Michigan Head Coach Brady Hoke publicly jumping on the train not long after. If this is such a popular move with Head Coaches across the sport, then why haven't we seen it up for vote already?

David Cutcliffe, former Duke Head Coach, lays it out well in this 2012 quote: "That's an old idea, that's a good idea, but that's very difficult to get the NCAA to move in those regards. Your best chance is if you can prove you can make some money, because then you have a chance for the presidents and the ADs to vote in favor of it."

At the end of the day college football is a business, while it may benefit the coaches to see other teams in live competition with their own, if it doesn't generate decent revenue then it is likely dead-on arrival for any vote. Something I am sure coaches have thought about in their pitches behind closed doors, but you do not see a lot of in past public pitches for the idea.

Which is why Hugh Freeze's pitch makes a lot of sense, it may ultimately come to nothing but he is hitting the right chords. The focus on scrimmaging with a more local university, making the organization easier and less costly. The revenue that

an in-state scrimmage could drive in for both Alabama and Auburn; Hugh Freeze understands what the pitch has to be if anything will come out of it.

It is a similar pitch to one Mike Gundy made in the spring of 2021, where he pitched a spring game against Arkansas.

Once again, his public comments did not really hit on the revenue generating aspect of the conversation, and it likely went nowhere because of it.

Other coaches, like Mike Norvell, said they were open to the idea during conferences this week. Could there be another major push for spring scrimmages against other schools?

One of the other major roadblocks is that while most major college football coaches seem on board with the idea, there were some pretty powerful dissenters to the push in 2012, namely Nick Saban and Bob Stoops.

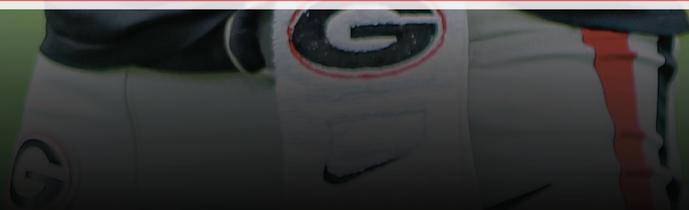
The former is now a coach in the XFL, and the latter has adapted and changed his philosophy with his style of offense in more recent years.

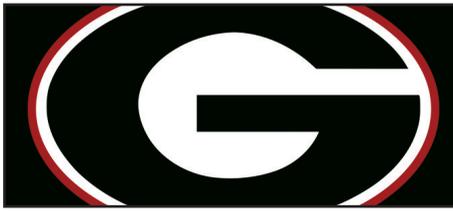
Could Saban, and more importantly Presidents and ADs, come around to the idea, or will this die down for another decade before another push happens again?



BECK-ONED STARTER

UGA's New Starting Quarterback By Robert Craft





Brock Vandagriff and Gunner Stockton are very much in the competition for QB1.

We hear that Vandagriff's performance on G-Day was hurt by a few dropped balls. What fans saw, however, was clear.

Carson Beck is Georgia's starting quarterback this upcoming season!

That does not mean Beck will finish the season there. Nor does it mean Beck has the clutch gene (a la Stetson Bennett) and will be the one to lead Georgia to a third consecutive national championship.

There are necessary caveats. Beck benefited from playing with the first-team offense, which meant he had top skill-position receivers on the offensive line.

What I saw was Beck getting the first five of those drives, producing 24 points while he threw for 211 yards.

Vandagriff went in during the second half, and started off throwing an interception, then leading two more zero-point drives.

Vandagriff seemed a bit tentative on decision-making, which you can afford when you can run.

A strong QB knows that often it is best to get the ball out. Vandagriff's running ability is alluring; it's tempting to give him the benefit of the doubt, roll him out there and watch the fun.

At this point, however, Vandagriff's upside seems outweighed by Beck's skill set. The downfield throwing ability, his arm, the decision-making; it all looks like it's there for Beck, and Vandagriff appears more as a high risk-high reward stock option.

If there is legitimate concern about Beck, it's whether he has matured enough from his first two seasons, when by his own admission he needed to mature.

On the field, he didn't know the system well enough and did not work hard enough to know it. Off the field, he missed a few too many classes or study halls.

Saturday's game was also an

example of how Beck has matured as a quarterback. He wasn't out there showing off his arm. He was excelling in touch and timing passes. He was calm and confident in the pocket.

That does not mean Beck will prove the right choice in games to come. The flaws that were there a few years ago might not have gone away.

At some point, coaches must go with what you see. None of the three quarterbacks has proved themselves in a real game. Often coaches don't know what they have until the games begin.

Georgia does have three good options. This is not 2015 when the team finished spring not sure the right guy was on campus and went out and imported its eventual starter.

This year is a classic, pre-portal-era quarterback situation where three veterans who waited their turn and developed are being considered.

Georgia, of all the luxuries it has these days, enjoys being able to pick a quarterback who has waited and developed.

And after the Spring Game, it seems pretty clear which one has developed the most.



WHAT IS COMING UP THIS SUMMER?

SWIMMING LESSONS
MAINLAND AND ST. SIMONS



LIFEGUARD NEEDED AT ALL LOCATIONS

TENNIS REGISTRATION
MAINLAND AND ST. SIMONS



912.554.7792 • 912.279.2836

FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC CARE



Dr. Harry C. Broyles



Most Insurances Accepted

3607 Community Road, Brunswick, GA
912.265.0311



Joseph JEWELERS

Serving the South Since 1910

Shops at Sea Island
600 Sea Island Rd. #16
St. Simons Island, GA 31522
912.634.9060

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram



JUMBO SHRIMP BASEBALL IS BACK!



PROMOTIONS

TWO-FOR-TUESDAY

Presented by **Community First Credit Union**
Tickets are 2-for-1 at the box office for Community First Credit Union members using their CFCU credit or debit card.*

GOOD IS EVERYWHERE WEDNESDAY

Presented by **VyStar Credit Union**
Join VyStar Credit Union as they raise awareness and funds for a featured charity throughout the night through ticket sales and promotions. Plus, VyStar Credit Union members can enjoy a Buy-One, Get-One-Free ticket special by using their VyStar credit or debit card at the box office.*

THIRSTY THURSDAY

Join us for the best outdoor happy hour(s) in Jax!
We'll have \$2 16oz drafts at select Thirsty Thursday locations!

FIREWORKS FRIDAY

Be sure to stick around after every Friday night game for Friday Night Fireworks! Plus, Jumbo Shrimp players and staff will wear red each Friday to support the military, and fans who wear red save \$1 on their ticket at the box office or can donate the \$1 to charity.

GIVEAWAY SATURDAY

Be sure to show up early for Saturday games – the first 2,000 fans through the gate will receive a unique giveaway item!

SUNDAY FAMILY FUNDAY

Presented by **Baptist Health**
Join us as we host a 20 minute pre-game catch on the field. Kids can also feel like the pros after each Sunday game by running the bases once the field is clear. Plus, each Sunday will feature complementary, PRE-GAME, face painting and balloon animals!

Visit jaxshrimp.com for the full schedule.

*Valid for ticket of equal or lesser value, subject to availability. Cannot combine ticket offers.



AFFORDABLE. FAMILY. FUN.

JAXSHRIMP.COM



904.358.2846



ON THE CLOCK

NFL Draft Predictions By Kipp Branch



Everyone these days produces their own version of an NFL Mock draft.

You do not have to be correct because most of these so-called experts are not. It is something fun to project. Keep that in mind. Here is my 2023 mock draft for the top ten picks with trades factored in.

Carolina Panthers: With the first pick in the 2023 NFL Draft the Panthers select Bryce Young QB from Alabama.

I do not care how tall he is or what he weighs. The guy checks every box as a QB. He is accurate with a strong arm. He is mobile and played at a high level in the NFL equivalent of AAA Baseball the Southeastern Conference. Young steps in and has Carolina in contention in the weak NFC South.

Houston Texans: C. J. Stroud QB/Ohio State: Stroud showed me something in the Peach Bowl. Great pocket presence and show us some wheels when the pocket broke down.

Houston has twelve picks in this draft and can get respectable quickly in the weak AFC South.

Arizona Cardinals: Will Anderson DE/Alabama: Anderson fills a need for Arizona.

Alabama has two of the top three picks in my mock draft and they did not make the college football playoffs in 2022. Head scratcher.

Baltimore Ravens: Anthony Richardson QB/Florida: The Ravens trade Lamar Jackson to the Colts and get Richardson who wowed at the combine and who is bigger, stronger, and faster than Jackson.

Seattle Seahawks: Jalen Carter DL/Georgia: Carter is the best prospect in this draft who Seattle loves.

I do not believe the smokescreen of Carter falling out of the top ten. This kid is too good to drop that far. Yes, he needs to make better decisions.

Pete Carroll will develop Carter into the best DL in the league before his rookie contract expires.

Tennessee: Will Levis QB/Kentucky: With Carter gone off the board the Lions trade out this spot with Tennessee and the Titans draft Levis.

Levis has the potential to end up being the best QB in the draft in 4-5 years. Tennessee is in desperate need of a QB.

Las Vegas Raiders: Christian Gonzalez CB/Oregon: Las Vegas needs help in the secondary.

Gonzalez is the highest rated corner on my board. In a division with great QB's the Raiders must improve on the backend of their defense.

Atlanta Falcons: Tyree Wilson Edge/Texas Tech: With the QB's gone the Falcons address a huge need, which is pass rush. Wilson can get to the QB. The Falcons need a lot of help on defense.

Chicago Bears: Peter Skoronski OT/Northwestern: The Bears after trading the number one pick to Carolina get must needed help along the line of scrimmage.

Philadelphia Eagles: Nolan Smith Edge/Georgia: The Eagles take Smith here to bring heat off the edge.

Philly is already strong on defense, so the rich get richer by taking Smith who stole the show at the NFL Combine by running a 4.38 forty. Insane speed off the edge.

Local Picks in the NFL Draft:

Round 4 Pick 125: The Los Angeles Chargers select Warren McClendon OL/Georgia: The former BHS Pirate McClendon is selected by the Chargers who need help protecting Justin Herbert in LA. McClendon will be versatile in the NFL and will be able to play both the guard and tackle positions.

Round 6 Pick 180: The Arizona Cardinals select Stetson Bennett QB/Georgia: This could be the perfect opportunity for Stet to come in and compete right away for a back-up job.

Kyler Murray is rehabbing a knee injury. Colt McCoy is an aging 36-year-old career back-up.

Bennett has all the intangibles you want in a QB. The biggest one is that he is a winner and has the physical tools to go with it now with his showings at the combine and Georgia's pro day.

Arizona is a spot where Bennett could eventually be an NFL starter. The jury is still out on Kyler Murray in Arizona.





SPRING PANTHERS

Georgia State Spring Game By Kenneth Harrison



Most college football teams are currently holding spring practice. That will conclude with the spring game. The Georgia State Panthers had their spring game in March. Let's take a look at the Panthers.

GSU was 8 – 5 in 2021 and won the Camellia Bowl. They had some momentum going into the 2022 season but they finished 4 – 8. Four of those losses were by one score. If they can execute better and close out games, they could have a winning season in 2023.

Head coach Shawn Elliott is entering his seventh season in Atlanta. He's led Georgia State to four bowl games and won three of them.

The spring game/scrimmage was held on Thursday, March 9th. Fox 5 was there on the field at the beginning of the game. There were close to 200 recruits and their families in attendance on the cold, rainy night.

The game was divided by the Blue and Black teams. The Blue team won the scrimmage. Elliott said he'll take the winners to Six Flags as a reward, while the losing team had to clean up the locker room.

The star of the game was redshirt sophomore running back KZ Adams. On the fourth play of the game Adams had a touchdown run that was over 40 yards.

"KZ has been all business this spring, probably more so than he was last spring when he was new to this place," Elliott said. "Now, he's got the understanding of the game of football, he's got the understanding of our offense. He probably sees holes now before they're even there."

Unofficially, Adams finished with 20 carries, 152 yards and four TD's. He also had two catches for 13 yards. This is impressive, especially since he only had four carries last season.

"Me going in there and doing what I do is nothing for me," said Adams, who sat behind a stable of senior running backs a year ago. "It's a regular performance for me. I don't want that to sound cocky or anything, but I do this. I'm not super excited that this happened because I'm used to it."

Veteran running back Marcus Carroll ran for 100 yards and 2 scores. The two backs are ready to be the 1-2 punch that Elliott has been looking for.

The Panthers had eight transfers join the program in the offseason and several of them made an impact.

Merrimack receiver transfer Jacari Carter had three catches for 72 yards and a touchdown. He caught passes from senior quarterback Darren Grainger. Carter was named outstanding newcomer on offense for spring practice.

"I just wanted to establish myself as a leader," Carter said, when asked about his first few months in Georgia. "You can see the experience of Darren Grainger of him being here for three years in the leadership and the talent level that he brings. It's a great lift for the receivers. He makes everyone better."

The outstanding newcomer on defense award went to Clemson transfer Kevin Swint. He's a linebacker/defensive end and he flew around the field making plays. He's happy to be playing closer to his hometown of Carrolton, GA.

Elliott was impressed with how seamlessly the transfers and midyear signees have fit into his program.

The 2023 season kicks off at home against Rhode Island.

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF SOUTHEAST GEORGIA**

GREAT FUTURES START HERE!

**AFTER SCHOOL
PROGRAMMING**

**PLANNED,
STRUCTURED,
AND FUN
ACTIVITIES!**

**FREE SNACK
AND HOT MEAL
DAILY!**

**DAILY
HOMEWORK
AND TUTORING!**

**TRAINED AND
CARING STAFF!**

**LEARN MORE
BY VISITING
WWW.BGCSEGA.COM**

Competitive Pricing
and FREE DELIVERY on St Simons

JC Strother Company

"Thank You For 90 Years Of Serving Glynn County"



221 Mallery St. in the Pier Village
912.638.8601

YellaWood
Pressure Treated Pine

NEW Ownership · NEW Menu · NEW Atmosphere



Live Music Every Weekend
Thursday Night Trivia
Friday BOGO Burgers



267 Village at Glynn Place
(Between Wal-Mart and Publix)

JET'S PHARMACY

HEALTHCARE MADE EASY 

1229 NORTH WAY, DARIEN, GA 31305
MONDAY-FRIDAY 9AM-6PM
SATURDAY 9AM-1PM

- PRESCRIPTIONS
- OVER THE COUNTER
VITAMINS/SUPPLEMENTS
- DIABETIC SUPPLIES

Immunizations available:

- COVID vaccines
- Flu vaccines
- Pneumonia
- Shingles

jetspharmacy.com
Email: jetspharmacy@gmail.com
Phone: 912-437-3784
Fax: 912-437-6242



- 12 Premium Select Drafts
- Best Oysters South Of Charleston-
- Bloody Mary Bar-

Look For Our Specials

On 

912.634.6228

228 Redfern Village • St Simons Island, GA

THE
VR
ZONE

www.thevrzonebwk.com
912-265-6600

**Come Try Out
Southeast Georgia's Only
Virtual Reality Experience
Located Inside
The Strike Zone
Worlds Largest
Pac Man/Galaga Game**



www.tgstrikezone.com
912-265-6600





When You Need Care,

Our Team Gets You Back in the Game.

When a sports injury happens, choosing the right team for treatment and rehabilitation is the fastest way to get back out on the court.

At Southeast Georgia Health System, we have a roster of specially trained orthopaedic physicians, rehabilitation therapists and staff to treat athletes of all ages and abilities, from recreational to professional. Our team develops personalized treatment plans, using the latest techniques, both surgical and nonsurgical, to get you back in the game – fast.



**SOUTHEAST GEORGIA
HEALTH SYSTEM**

OUTPATIENT REHABILITATION
CARE CENTERS

2600 Wildwood Drive, Brunswick
1111 Glynco Parkway, Suite 110, Brunswick
6000 Wellness Way, St. Simons Island
2000 Dan Proctor Drive, St. Marys

To schedule an appointment, call **912-466-5330**.



SUMMIT
Sports Medicine & Orthopaedic Surgery

3025 Shrine Road, Suite 390, Brunswick
7000 Wellness Way, Suite 7110, St. Simons Island
2060 Dan Proctor Drive, Suite 1400, St. Marys

To schedule an appointment, call **912-466-7340**.