

THE SOUTHERN SPORTS EDITION

March 2025 Edition

THE PLAYERS



Jags Hire Liam Coon



Jordan Triplett Transfers



Jeff Herron Elected To Hall of Fame





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

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

GET TO KNOW THE WRITERS



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.



COLIN LACY

Colin Lacy is the voice of the Southeast Bulloch Yellow Jackets. Colin also works with Westwood One Sports and Bowl Season radio for National College Football and NFL broadcasts across the country. Colin also calls Georgia Tech baseball for the Georgia Tech Sports Network and also works with the ACC Network.



BRIAN ALBERTSON

Brian Alberson is the former President of the Georgia PGA and is currently a PGA member.. Brian resides on St. Simons Island and is the current director of Golf at Brunswick Country Club. Brian is the founder of the GIGA Elite Golf Academy and the founder of CJGA Elite Golf Academy.



MICHAEL SPIERS

Mike Spiers is the voice of the Camden County Wildcats. Mike has been the public address announcer for Camden baseball for over a decade. Mike graduated from Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, LA. Mike is heavily involved in Camden County athletics.



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 graduated from Kennesaw State University and formerly worked at CNN Sports. Jason hosts "The Jason Bishop Show", south Georgia's most listened to sports talk show.

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 all across Southeast Georgia and growing everyday.

SSE STAFF

Publisher

The Bishop Media Sports Network

Editor

Jason Bishop

Graphic Design

George Alread

Columnists

Kenneth Harrison, Jr

Colin Lacy

Robert Craft

Michael Spiers

Brian Albertson

Charlie Moon

Teddy Bishop

Jason Bishop

Photographers

Mike Brinson



OTHER CONTRIBUTORS: JEFF DOKE, JOE DELANEY

THE PLAYERS

THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP PREVIEW

PAGE 4

by Joe Delaney

THE GOAT

JEFF HERRON ENTERING HALL OF FAME

PAGE 8

by Michael Spiers

NEW DIRECTION

JAGS HIRE LIAM COEN

PAGE 12

by Robert Craft

PRO BOWL STING

SOUTHEAST BULLDOGS YELLOW JACKETS AT NFL PRO BOWL

PAGE 16

by Colin Lacy

THE GEAR

ANNUAL PGA MERCHANDISE SHOW

PAGE 18

by Brian Albertson

SOUTHERN DRAFT

AFC SOUTH DRAFT PREDICTIONS

PAGE 20

by Kenneth Harrison

NEEDS

NFC SOUTH DRAFT PREDICTIONS

PAGE 22

by Kenneth Harrison

ANOTHER SHAKE-UP

MORE CHANGES COMING TO CFP

PAGE 24

by Michael Spiers

BIG RED RIVER

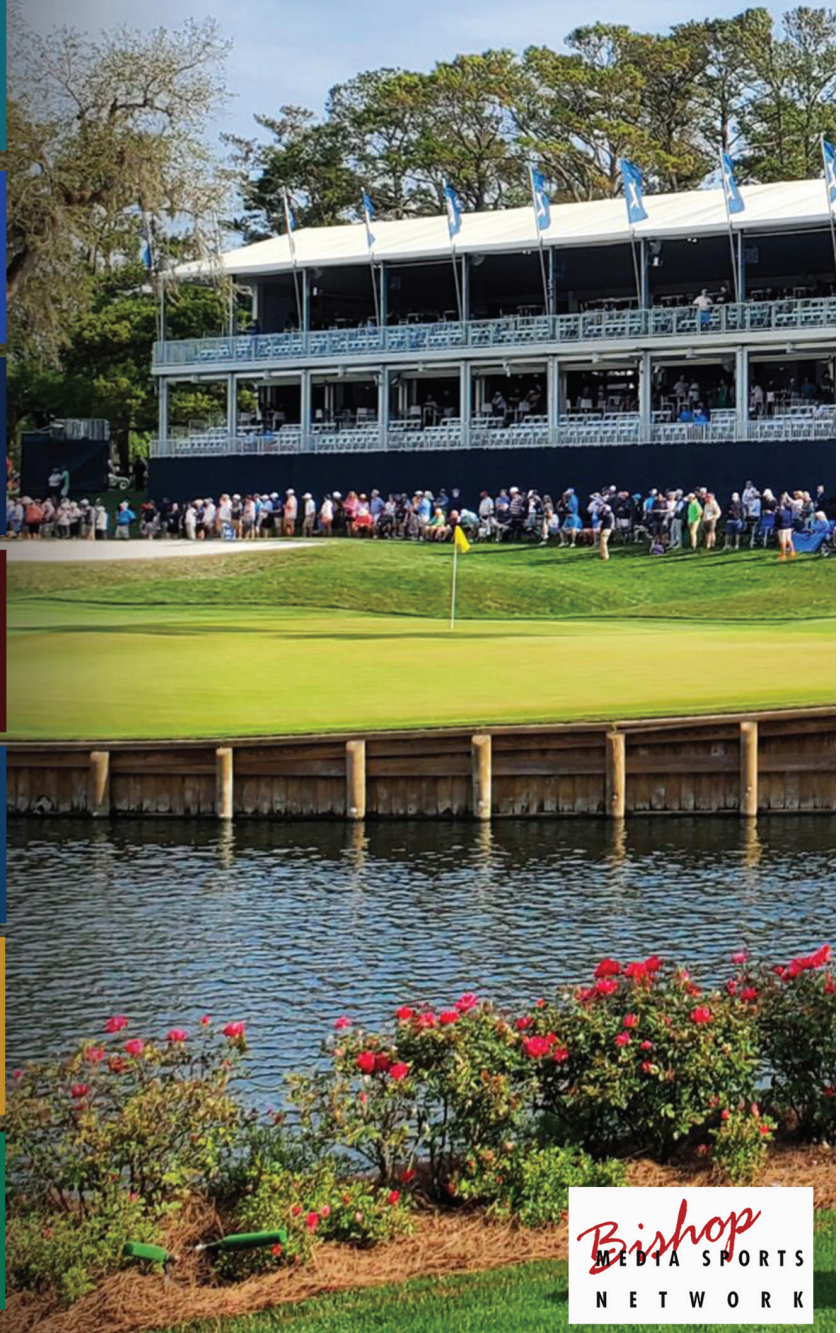
JORDAN TRIPLETT TRANSFERS TO CORNELL

PAGE 26

by Jeff Doke

In This Issue...

THE PLAYERS





MARSHLAND CREDIT UNION

BRUNSWICK • JESUP • NAHUNTA • DARIEN

New Location

Exit 29

*Coming
2025!*



621 Palisades
Brunswick GA 31523



MARSHLANDCU.COM
912-279-2000





THE PLAYERS

The Players Championship Preview By Joe Delaney



While the locals throughout north Florida and South Georgia are currently shaking off the February blues weather wise. They know it's time to get going!

One of the major weeks of the year for this area is right around the corner. Yes it's time for the Players Championship.

This year's edition brings in some real drama. And that's before anyone has pulled a stick out of the bag and ripped one down the Par 4, 423-yard first hole.

Let's get right to it. Can Scottie do it again? In 2023 Scheffler got hot mid round on Sunday and walked away with his first Players.

The next year it was Scottie coming from behind and going low in the final round to win his second in a row. Now begs the question? Three in a row? It's never been done.

In order to break new ground at Sawgrass with a third in a row, Scheffler will have to be on his game. The consensus World's #1 has lately been just that, on his game. Can anyone knock him out in Jacksonville? There are quite a few wanting to take a shot.

THE BIG BOYS:

JUSTIN THOMAS: The 2021 champion has been playing well. With 3 top 10s in 5 starts this year, Justin can come in and let her rip. He knows the course well and is a crowd favorite. If he can get in the mix on Sunday, watch out.

RORY: Well, of course.

LUDVIG ABERG: Guess I should put him in here since he won the RSM in 2023 right? Not hardly, the young Swede is cool, calm and dangerous. He is rapidly becoming one of the best of the rising young guns in the game. If he plays his game watch out!

XANDER: Coming back from a rib injury. He may be in the field but I think we are asking a little much.

DON'T BET AGAINST:

BRIAN HARMAN: A tough go for the St Simons Island pro recently. But his last 4 results have gotten consistently better. If he is in it on Sunday, there will be a lot of people pulling for this guy.

KEEGAN BRADLEY: No one scares this guy. He hasn't made any noise lately but if he can just take out that one bad round he seems to be having in the last few weeks, he could surprise.

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: He has been around the top 10 numerous times. Consistent, calm, and lethal. I would not give this Brit a break. Do so at your own peril guys!

LONGSHOTS:

SAHITH THEEGALA: The steady, young, 27-year-old pro. A win here would really move his career

forward. He's definitely a long shot, but he is due.

HARRIS ENGLISH: Another veteran St. Simons pro who is playing well with a win earlier this year at the Farmers Insurance Open. He has all the tools and temperament to have his time to shine.

RICKIE FOWLER: It feels funny making Rickie a longshot, but the former winner is that. Put him in the final grouping on Sunday and then watch him drop one real close on 17! How much fun would that be!

So, can someone above or in the field catch Scottie? Well, the odds say that a three-peat would be very difficult.

My vote? Let er rip Scottie. The guy is on fire. He won 7 tournaments last year. In 5 years on the tour, he has played in 133 events and made the cut 114 times! His winnings over that time are over 70 million dollars. When you're hot, you're hot!

If you get a chance to get tickets to the Players, by all means GO! It is everything a great tournament should be.

The Fans, the golf course, and the community all come together. And a Sunday final with a seat on the hill at the 17th should be on every golfer's bucket list.





Preventing Baseball and Softball Injuries



Beau Sasser, MD

A board-certified orthopaedic surgeon, Dr. Sasser specializes in sports medicine and also serves as medical director of the Southeast Georgia Health System Sports Medicine Program.

Summit Sports Medicine & Orthopaedic Surgery has offices in Brunswick, St. Simons Island and St. Marys.

To make an appointment with Dr. Sasser, call 912-466-7340.



Check out our Podcast!

Unlock health tips and expert advice with Southeast Georgia Health System's podcast, *Health Matters!*



April is right around the corner, and with it comes Little League season. Before you gather the uniforms, bats and catcher's mitts, heed the advice of Beau Sasser, MD. "When baseball and softball season start, doctors tend to see the same injuries, year after year, but these are often prevented by following some simple ground rules." Dr. Sasser is vice chief of Surgery and medical director of the Sports Medicine Program at Southeast Georgia Health System. He sees patients at Summit Sports Medicine & Orthopaedic Surgery.

As a board-certified orthopaedic surgeon, Dr. Sasser diagnoses and treats his share of injuries, especially in athletes. Two mishaps are so widespread among ball players, they bear the name of the sport. "Repetitive overhead throwing stresses the shoulder, which can cause overuse injuries. Known as Little League shoulder, it's an irritation of the growth plate in the shoulder and is common among pitchers and catchers. Little League elbow results from repeated overhead throwing and hitting, which irritates the growth plate in the elbow. It happens more frequently in pitchers," Dr. Sasser says.

Sprained thumbs and ankles, as well as dental and facial injuries, also occur on the ball field.

A little forethought, however, might help prevent these problems. Let's start with some commonsense practices. "Before play, athletes who jog or perform light cardio exercise increase their heart rate and warm up their body. Stretching loosens the muscles, and should be part of a post-game cooldown," Dr. Sasser explains. Players should also wear properly fitted protective gear matched to their position.

To improve performance and reduce injury, make sure your athlete knows the correct way to bat, field and run the bases. Encourage them to stay hydrated during practice and games. "If you see a player fatigued or faltering, give them a rest break, and don't ever let them play through pain," Dr. Sasser says.

Every player, regardless of age, benefits from doing other types of exercise that engage different muscles. "Cross-training improves overall strength, flexibility and balance and makes players less likely to get injured," Dr. Sasser adds. For the littlest of Little Leaguers, this might involve bicycling or swimming on their days off.

We can't keep kids in a bubble (and we wouldn't want to), so bumps, bruises, sprains, strains and breaks could be part of an active child's life. "Elbow injuries in young kids typically respond to rest. Ice also decreases swelling and pain," Dr. Sasser says. "If the pain lingers or flares up when the player throws a ball, see a doctor." Unless there's a broken bone or torn ligament, surgery generally isn't necessary.

To prevent injuries, a coach or trainer can assess and instruct your child to improve their throwing technique. Another strategy to avoid Little League elbow is to follow recommended pitch counts – the maximum number of pitches a player can safely throw in one day. For instance, children aged seven or eight should limit their daily pitches to 50. Teens 17 to 18 can throw 105 pitches daily. For complete guidelines, see the Major League Baseball website at mlb.com/pitch-smart/pitching-guidelines.

Following these guidelines will help ensure a winning season, regardless of the scores.

Gentlemen's & Lady OUTFITTERS
est. 1983

600 SEA ISLAND RD SUITE 8 • ST. SIMONS
(IN HARRIS TEETER SHOPPING CENTER)
912.634.1521

TUXEDO RENTALS FOR PROMS AND WEDDINGS FOR OVER 25 YEARS

New Issues Monthly

THE SOUTHERN SPORTS EDITION

WHO'S IN?
TEXAS
FLORIDA

DAYTONA 500
LIGHTNING BOLTS
STC
1000 Miles
1000 Miles
1000 Miles

OWL SON
GOODYEAR
TOYOTA
Prestige
Bishop

THE SOUTHERN SPORTS EDITION

Bishop MEDIA SPORTS NETWORK

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

GoldenIslesPharmacy.com



THE GOAT

Jeff Herron Entering Hall of Fame By Michael Spiers



Legendary Camden County High School football coach Jeff Herron may have hung his whistle up for good at the end of the 2023 season, but those that know this man like I do understand that he has never been one to stand on life's sideline.

Coach Herron is the living embodiment of "Team First", but all of us that call Camden home are thrilled to see him get the individual honors that he so justly deserves.

This week the National High School Football Hall of Fame announced that it will induct Jeff Herron into its newest class.

Coach Herron roamed the sideline for 32 years as the head man at high schools in Georgia and South Carolina, compiling an overall record of 334 – 69. His record of 312 – 54 in Georgia alone, a winning percentage of 85.3%, is good enough for second best in the state's history and 34th best in national high school football history.

Herron was named Region or Area Coach of the Year 25 times and the Georgia Coach of the Year 9 times in those 32 years. He was the Atlanta Falcons High School Coach of the Year in 2009. He has led 19 region champions, had 10 final four appearances and five state championships.

He is the only head football coach in Georgia High School Association (GHSA) history to win state titles at three different schools. He won his first state championship

while at Oconee County in 1999, three at Camden County in 2003, 2008 and 2009, and his final at Grayson High School in 2016. That 2016 team at Grayson went 14-1, winning the GHSA 7A State Championship and the Public-School National Championship.

Coach Herron's Camden County Wildcat teams also won 12 straight region championships, and hold the state record with a 58-game regular season winning streak, and a 28-game overall winning streak.

During his tenure, the Wildcats were ranked in the USA Today Top 25 six times and selected by ESPN as the program of the decade in Georgia for the 2000-2010 decade.

He also coached Walton (1989), Cedar Shoals (1990-93), Wheeler (1995-96) and Prince Avenue Christian (2013-15) in Georgia, and at T.L. Hanna (2017-18) in South Carolina.

In 2022, Jeff Herron was inducted into the Hall of Fame at Emory & Henry College in Virginia, where he was a starter and four-year letterman.

He was the team captain for the 1981 season when he was named a 2nd Team All Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) player.

In September of 2024 it was announced that Coach Herron will also be inducted as part of the 2025 Georgia Athletic Coaches Association (GACA) Hall of Fame class, which will also include former Charlton County High School head football coach Rich McWhorter, former Dougherty County and Troupe County head coach Charles Flowers, and basketball coaches Anzy Hardman and Rufus McDuffie.

The GACA induction will be on May 31, 2025 in Dalton, Georgia.

Its going to be a busy summer for Coach Herron. Two weeks after the GACA ceremony, he will be inducted into the National High School Football Hall of Fame on June 14th in Canton, Ohio.

All of us in Georgia's southeasternmost county are eternally grateful for everything Coach Herron has accomplished as a coach, but we are most indebted for his role as a teacher, and a leader of young people when we needed it most.

The best news of all...Jeff Herron goes into the National High School Football Hall of Fame, and into coaching eternity, as a Camden County Wildcat.



YouTube .COM/THEGAMESKYGAMING



 @OFFICIALGAMESKY 



PLAY LONGER. LIVE BETTER.
EXPERIENCE THE STRETCH ZONE DIFFERENCE!

LIFE IS BETTER WHEN YOUR BODY FEELS ITS BEST.

At Stretch Zone, we specialize in practitioner-assisted stretching designed to help you move freely, recover faster, and live without limits.

Whether you're on the golf course, tennis court, or just tackling the day-to-day, we'll help you unlock your body's full potential.

BECAUSE A **BETTER SWING** STARTS WITH **A STRETCH.**

- + **FEEL**
LIGHTER & YOUNGER
- + **RELIEVE**
STIFFNESS & SORENESS
- + **ENHANCE**
ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE
- + **INCREASE**
RANGE OF MOTION



STRETCH ZONE | ST SIMONS ISLAND
600 Sea Island Rd., Ste 9 B, St Simons Island, GA 31522
(912) 268-2495 | Stsimon@stretchzone.com

BOOK YOUR **FREE** STRETCH 

GOLDEN ISLES

COLLISION CENTER



912-263-4422

301 CANDLER DR. BRUNSWICK, GA 31523

Find us on FB and Instagram for specials

Locally Owned
and Operated



Lunch
and Dinner

315 Village at Glynn Place
912.264.4227
ShanesRibShack.com



Tires, Oil Changes, Alignments
NEW TIRES FAST

7535 Blythe Island Hwy, Brunswick, GA
912.289.2362



3603 Frederica Rd • St. Simons, GA
912.357.2357

Immunizations • EzPz Pak Adherence

FredericaPharmacy.com



DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS

MARSHSIDE
GRILL



1200 GLYNN AVENUE • BRUNSWICK, GA
912.342.7981

www.MARSHSIDEGRILL.com

**GAME UP
YOUR CHANCES
TO WIN**

T&B

TUCKER & BROWNING

tuckerandbrowning.com

(912) 267.7123 



NEW DIRECTION

Jags Hire Liam Coen By Robert Craft



Liam Coen was recently formally introduced as the Jacksonville Jaguars newest head.

During the press conference, he addressed the whirlwind of speculation from last week; he was set to return to Tampa Bay as the Buc's offensive coordinator — with a substantial raise to keep him put.

The next day, Coen attended a clandestine meeting with the Jaguars that ultimately led to him accepting the team's head coach position.

“The opportunity to coach in Tampa was a phenomenal one to get my feet wet in the NFL as an offensive coordinator and I thank them so much for that opportunity,” Coen said.

“As you continue to do more research and gain more information as you go, it started to become more clear with every hour that this was an opportunity that you just can't pass up for so many different reasons. Ultimately, you want to do what is best for you and your family. That is what this came down to. I will always love and remember those guys in Tampa — my players, those guys, love them to death — but this is an opportunity to also go do it with new guys and go reach and touch people because that's what coaching and teaching is and that's what this opportunity is all about. Head and eyes up and moving forward.”

From when Coen was set to return to Tampa Bay to when he accepted the Jaguars job, one major change occurred in Jacksonville. Jacksonville fired their General Manager. Coen said the Jag's decision had nothing to do with his decision.

“This was completely about an opportunity to work for an owner and a group of people with a group of players that needed some help,” Coen said. “That is what coaching is. Coaching is all about going to help people and be around people. That (the GM dismissal) was not a factor.”

Owner Shad Khan said Coen stood out from the opening round of interviews and finding a guide for quarterback Trevor Lawrence was paramount.

“This wasn't a moment of regret for the Jacksonville Jaguars,” Khan said of the coaching search. “This was a moment of progress, optimism and confidence that we will achieve the ultimate goal as long as we have the right man. And that man was Liam Coen. Why? Liam's outstanding body of work speaks for itself. Quarterback development is the bedrock of modern NFL and Liam has delivered that wherever he's coached.”

In Jacksonville, Coen inherits a team coming off a 4-13 season and is two seasons removed from winning the AFC South and reaching the divisional round of the playoffs. That playoff victory came in Doug Pederson's first of three seasons as coach before his firing.

Coen has a roster that features QB Trevor Lawrence, wide receiver Brian Thomas Jr., and defensive ends

Josh Hines-Allen and Travon Walker. The team also holds the Number 5 pick in this year's Draft.

“This is not a four-win team,” Coen said. “Yes, that is the record (from last year) but this is not a four-win team. How do we go from winning games to not losing them? I think that is something we've got to address. That has to be in our veins, in our DNA and in our culture of winning. I've learned it from the Los Angeles Rams and a ton of other great organizations of how to go and win football games. That's something we have to start as a team, as a group and show how we are going to do it.”

Coen confirmed Monday that he will call the plays as head coach.

Khan said that the next priority is to build out Coen's staff, giving every indication that he is not in a rush to hire a new general manager. He did, however, ensure the team would have one announced by Feb. 28. Assistant general manager Ethan Waugh is serving as the team's interim general manager.

Coen will have a strong voice in the hiring of the next general manager. His main task on the field is maximizing Lawrence's skills.

By today's standards, Lawrence is a below average QB. Coen's success will depend on if he make Lawrence a high performer, or at least a solid QB.



AVAILABLE AT
THE SOUTHERN SPORTS EDITION.COM

CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS



SOUTH GEORGIA'S #1 SPORTS SHOW



FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC CARE

Dr. Harry C. Broyles



*Most
Insurances
Accepted*

3607 Community Road, Brunswick, GA
912.265.0311

American Red Cross LIFEGUARDING CLASSES

15 & UP

SESSION 1
MARCH 31-APRIL 4
SESSION 2
APRIL 24-27



912.279.2836



Home Of The World Famous Mack's Fries



912.275.8271

6900 New Jesup Hwy

(In the Strickland Plaza, Bar Now Open!)



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



DBM
ROOFING

912.326.5337

blowe@dbmroofing.com

DBMRoofing.com





PRO BOWL STING

Southeast Bulloch Yellow Jackets at NFL Pro Bowl By Colin Lacy



The NFL world flocked to Orlando last weekend to watch the game's best in the 2025 Pro Bowl Games. The "game's best" applies in a couple of different scenarios.

The obvious is that of Jared Goff, Fred Warner and Bijan Robinson, some of the best in the NFL, but also applies to the names Jaci Kitchings and Jadyn Williams.

Jaci and Jadyn are two seniors that wrapped up their careers at Southeast Bulloch with the school's fourth consecutive state championship back in December but represented the NFC squad in the first NFL Girls Flag All-Star Game.

The inaugural event put on by the NFL saw thirty high school girls from all over the country (even two from Alaska) which included the two SEB Yellow Jackets competing in a flag football All-Star game to kick off the festivities on Sunday at the 2025 NFL Pro Bowl Games.

The NFL rolled out the red carpet for the Girls Flag Football All-Star Game participants including Kitchings and Williams.

The two Jacket players were flown down to Orlando on Friday before the Sunday afternoon game and not only got gear for the event, but the opportunity to take in some of the local attractions in Orlando and events with the NFL Pro Bowl players.

"They have had the best experience," said SEB Head Flag Football Coach Marci Cochran. "What a great event by the NFL and

I'm super excited they both got to participate."

Jaci and Jadyn found out that they were named to the thirty-girl roster just before the semifinals of the GHSA state tournament and were ecstatic to get the news but had unfinished business to take care of.

They would find themselves in familiar ground on the stage in Atlanta after an overtime thriller having won their fourth consecutive state championship and capping off an 82-1 record in their SEB careers.

Southeast Bulloch Flag Football burst on the scene in 2021 when the program began (when Kitchings and Williams were freshmen) and have won the state championship each of the first four years of the program's existence and winning 82 out of 83 games played in program history. The lone loss in program history came this year against the private school sector in Calvary Day out of Savannah.

I got to catch up with SEB Head Coach Marci Cochran as she watched Jadyn and Jaci play in the All-Star game in Orlando and looking back on the last four years she said "After starting four years ago and lost our first game this year which was devastating but in the long run it helped us win another state title. Four in a row which is more than any other team in the state of Georgia. We're super excited about the growth of our program and adding a middle school program last year which helped us too."

Coach Cochran has seen every snap that both Jadyn and Jaci have taken in their flag football careers and have become not only trendsetters on the national level at the Pro Bowl Games but also helped set the fantastic foundation of the SEB program.

"They're the first seniors that

have completed all four years, so they're very special to us and we hate to be losing them," Cochran said holding back tears. "Jaci has grown so much. Her development and dedication are awesome. Jadyn was always a really good player, but to watch her learn the game and understand the game is fun and to watch both of them grow from freshmen to seniors is really impressive."

The NFL has made a concerted effort from the NFL League Office all the way down to the different teams investing in the sport of flag football at all levels, but especially at the high school level.

"For the sport as a whole, the Falcons itself sponsor a team in Alabama and there's a couple other states that they're starting to dive into to be able to start flag football there," said Cochran. "Just the money and support they give for all these schools to be able to provide a flag football program without it having to come out of their own pocket is huge. It's expensive to start a new sport, so their involvement in flag football has been awesome."

While Kitchings and Williams will get to do it one more time as SEB heads to Canton, Ohio for the National Flag Football High School Tournament, the experience at the NFL Pro Bowl Games really put a nice bow on a historic career for these two and would have been hard to believe a couple years ago said Coach Cochran.

"To see them get to play down here (in Orlando) and see this opportunity. To be in this stadium, to have the game broadcasted on ESPN even with the Goodyear Blimp. Who would have ever thought that four years ago? So, it's really special to be down here with them."



THE GEAR

Annual PGA Merchandise Show By Brian Albertson



As a Class A member of the PGA, I attend the annual PGA merchandise show for various reasons.

This year marked my 30th trip to Orlando for the show. The show is always the launchpad for the newest, most innovative products in the golf industry.

For PGA members, this is also an opportunity for mandatory continuing education credits, and networking with fellow professionals from around the world.

But for the average golfer the PGA show is almost beyond words in size and scope. This year marked the largest turnout in 15 years as over 33,000 golf industry professionals from every state and nearly 100 countries came together again in Orlando to view displays and booths from over 1,100 golf industry vendors.

The Orange County Convention Center covers many acres, and the show floor is divided into three distinct categories of vendors.

It is traditional that the far right of the building is the apparel showcase with every brand of golf clothing, headwear and accessories that you have ever heard of and many new lines.

Honestly, PGA professionals and buyers for their respective golf shops are most likely seen in the apparel section meeting with their apparel reps for personal viewings of their favorite lines. It is also easy to stroll by every company to see if something catches your interest. As the show is in January, the apparel companies are primarily showing fall

and holiday offerings for the same year.

The middle of the show floor highlights golf industry needs such as carts, range, trophies, travel, teaching, clubhouse, software.

This is where I spent most of my time this year comparing all the different launch monitors for teaching in club fitting. We have recently expanded our Golf learning center to three bays, and I was charged to properly outfit our facility with the newest technology. I have used Trackman and FlightScope in the past but fell in love with the new Foresight equipment this year.

Lastly, the left side of the show floor is where you find all the golf clubs and ball companies with massive displays of every product that they offer.

Each major golf club company has a booth the size of a grocery store. This is where all the fun happens and where most of the general golf enthusiasts' traffic is during the PGA show.

If you were at the show, we all love the game and we all can't wait to see the new products that launch the week of the PGA merchandise show.

This year did not disappoint as Callaway launched their new Elyte family of clubs. Titleist introduced their new version of the ProV 1 golf ball and Vokey wedges. The new pings, Taylor maids and Mizuno were all popular with the Mizuno STZ driver coming in at the best value of \$299.

If you've never been to the PGA merchandise show, I highly recommend it. You will not be disappointed, and it is always exciting. I hope to see you all in Orlando next January!!!

In the meantime, happy golfing.



EDWIN WATTS GOLF

SERVING GOLFERS SINCE 1968

Certified Club Fitting

All of the Top Brands

Apparel Discounts

Club Repair

230 Retreat Village
St. Simons

(In Winn Dixie Shopping Center)

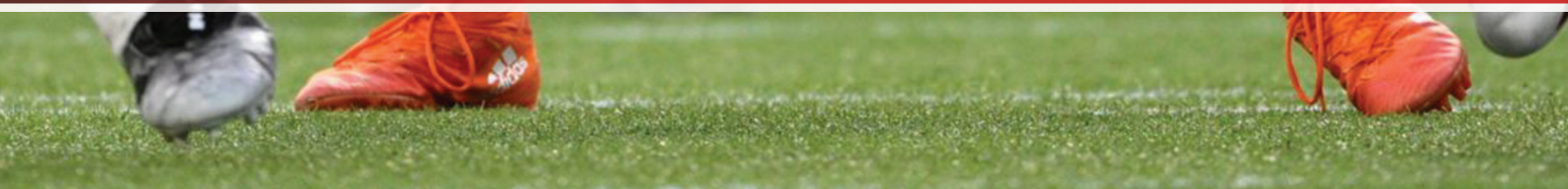
912.638.5034

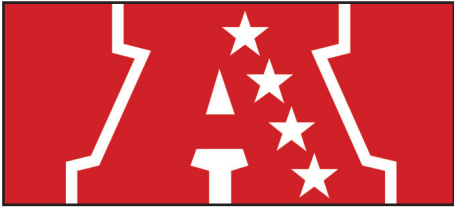




SOUTHERN DRAFT

AFC South Draft Predictions By Kenneth Harrison





The 2025 NFL Draft starts April 24, 2025 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. We are going to take a look around the AFC South and see what position each team should address in the first round.

Tennessee (3-14): The Titans are tied with Cleveland and the New York Giants for the worst record in the NFL. That earned them the first pick in the 2025 draft.

Quarterback Will Levis was drafted in the 2nd round, No. 33 by the team in 2023. He started the season opener and for a total of twelve games.

He passed for 2,091 yards, 13 touchdowns, 12 interceptions and he completed 63% of his passes. He showed that he takes risks and throws bad interceptions. I think Tennessee has to look at their QB of the future.

The most likely candidate to pick is Cam Ward (Miami). This year's quarterback class is considered weak but Ward is the best in this class.

He transferred from Washington State and played great at Miami. He threw for 4,313 yards, 39 TD's, 7 interceptions and completed 67% of his passes.

He also rushed for 204 yards and 4 scores. Ward won the Davey O'Brien Award (2024), Manning Award (2024), ACC Player of the Year (2024) and Consensus All-American (2024).

Jacksonville (4-13): The Jags need help on the defensive line or in the secondary. They have the fifth pick so I think they will draft a pass rusher.

The best pick is Abdul Carter (Penn State). He was an off-ball linebacker his first two years before he was moved to edge rusher for the

2024 season.

In 2024 he had 43 solo tackles, 24 tackles for loss and 12 sacks. Carter was a Unanimous All-American (2024), Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year (2024) and two-time first-team All-Big Ten (2023, 2024).

He's 6'3 and 259 pounds so he has great size and speed. He's a great athlete that could have an immediate impact like another Penn State pass rusher has recently, Micah Parsons.

Indianapolis (8-9): The Colts were only one game under .500 so they are close to becoming a playoff team. They have the No. 14 pick.

Quarterback Anthony Richardson was drafted 4th in the 2023 draft. In his two seasons he has only played in 15 games. They are really hoping he can stay healthy and make a drastic leap going into his third season.

Indy can go in a couple of different directions with this pick. They could select an offensive lineman or defensive back.

If they pick a lineman it could be inside offensive lineman Armand Membou (Mizzou). He was a tackle at Missouri but he's 6'3 and 332 pounds so he's not the ideal size for an NFL tackle. He will probably be moved inside to guard.

If they pick a DB safety Malaki Starks (Georgia) might be the pick. He's very smart and athletic so he would be a great fit.

Houston (10-7): The Texans were very inconsistent but they still won the division and a playoff game. Second year QB CJ Stroud regressed and the offensive line did a bad job protecting him. They can address the offensive line, defensive line or add a weapon on offense. They are picking No. 25.

I think they might draft guard Grey Zabel (North Dakota State). He's listed as 6'6, 305 lbs. and he's a two-time FCS national champion. He was also named first-team FCS All-American (2024).

**BRUCE
KENNEDY
TIRE
COMPANY**

**Brakes
Oil Changes
Alignments/
Front End Work
Tire Rotations
And More**



**2928 Norwich St
Brunswick, GA
912-264-6578**



NEEDS

NFC South Draft Predictions By Kenneth Harrison



The 2025 NFL Draft starts April 24, 2025. I looked at the AFC South and examined the potential first round picks. Now let's take a look at the NFC South.

Carolina (5-12): The Panthers hold the 8th pick in the draft. They drafted quarterback Bryce Young with the top pick in the 2023 draft.

They had the ninth overall pick but they traded D.J. Moore and several other draft picks to Chicago to move up. One of the picks they traded was the 2024 first round pick, which turned out to be the first pick overall.

C.J. Stroud was drafted second in that draft and he was named NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year and made the Pro Bowl in 2023.

Thus far Young has looked like a bust. He played poorly and got benched last season. He got back in the starting lineup Week 8 and he played much better. The biggest team needs are edge, defensive tackle, wide receiver and center.

I can see the Panthers drafting WR Tetairoa McMillan (Arizona) or edge James Pearce Jr. (Tennessee). I think the biggest focus should be on defense but they have a chance to add a weapon to help Young.

McMillan had 84 receptions, 1,319 yards and 8 touchdowns last season. He was a Consensus All-American and First-team All-Big 12.

Pearce had 23 solo tackles, 13 tackles for loss, 7.5 sacks, 1 forced fumble and 1 fumble recovery in 2024. He's a two-time First-team All-SEC selection (2023, 2024).

New Orleans (5-12): The Saints hold the 9th pick. They recently hired Eagles offensive coordinator Kellen Moore as head coach. They started the season with two wins before going on a seven-game losing streak.

The biggest needs are edge, WR, TE, CB and DT. They also need to strengthen the offensive line.

If Carolina does not draft James Pearce Jr. the Saints will. If he is not available I can see them drafting OT Armand Membou (Mizzou). He's had 30 starts in three seasons and played in 36 games total. He was Second-team All-SEC in 2024.

Atlanta (8-9): The Falcons have the 15th pick. The team hired head coach Raheem Morris and signed

QB Kirk Cousins. They expected to be a playoff team in 2024 and that did not happen.

Cousins was benched toward the end of the season for rookie Michael Penix.

The positions of need are edge, S, CB, C and WR. It seems like every year we talk about the Falcons not being able to rush the passer.

I think they will take edge Mike Green (Marshall) or edge/LB Jalon Walker (Georgia). Green had 38 solo tackles, 23 TFL, 17 sacks, 3 FF and 1 FR last year.

Tampa Bay (10-7): The Buccaneers have the 19 pick. They had a pretty good season, losing to Washington 23-20 in the Wild Card round of the playoffs.

The biggest needs are WR, OG, LB, CB and OT. Receiver Chris Godwin suffered a season-ending ankle injury in October and he might depart in free agency. 2025 is the final year of Mike Evans' contract.

I think they will draft CB Jahdae Barron (Texas). He won the Jim Thorpe Award (2024), Consensus All-American (2024) and First-team All-SEC (2024). Last season he had 46 solo tackles, 5 interceptions, 11 passes defended, 3 TFL and 1 sack.





ANOTHER SHAKE-UP

More Changes Coming to CFP By Michael Spiers



Now that it's been almost a month since the conclusion of the first ever 12-team college football playoff format, leaders of the two most powerful conferences are set to meet today in New Orleans, and those meetings could have a major effect on the product we watch over the next few years.

College football's playoff system is about to get another shake-up, with serious talks of expanding to 14 or even 16 teams as early as 2026.

The Big Ten and SEC are leading the charge, pushing for automatic bids for their teams, and it looks like they're going to get their way.

The most likely format would guarantee four spots each for the SEC and Big Ten, two each for the ACC and Big 12, and one for the highest-ranked Group of Five team. Notre Dame would also get a guaranteed spot—if it finishes in the top 14.

That means if the playoff stops at 14 teams, there might not be any extra at-large spots some years.

In this setup, the top two teams would get byes in a 14-team field, but if they go to 16 teams, nobody gets a bye—just straight into the action.

The selection committee would also take a backseat, with rankings deciding the seeds instead of a room full of administrators debating which 8-4 team is “better.”

One big change could be how conferences handle their schedules. The SEC has been debating whether to move to a nine-game conference schedule for years, and with automatic

bids locked in, they might finally do it. The Big Ten already plays nine, and the ACC and Big 12 might follow.

There's also talk of a scheduling agreement between the SEC and Big Ten, setting up big non-conference matchups like Georgia-Michigan, Texas-Ohio State, or LSU-Oregon every year. That would be great for fans, TV ratings, and—of course—revenue.

With automatic bids taking center stage, conference championship games could change or even lose some importance.

The SEC and Big Ten are looking at new ways to determine their four teams, like play-in games where, say, the third-best team plays the sixth best, and the fourth-best plays the fifth best, with the winners grabbing the last two playoff spots.

Meanwhile, the ACC and Big 12 aren't thrilled about the SEC and Big Ten grabbing the biggest share of auto-bids.

ACC Commissioner Jim Phillips says the playoff should be “a true championship, not an invitational,” but let's be real—the CFP has always been more of an invite system than a true playoff.

It is also important to consider the fact that ESPN is shelling out \$1.3 billion a year for CFP broadcast rights starting in 2026, so they have a big say in all of this.

There are concerns that a playoff dominated by the SEC and Big Ten could push fans from other conferences away.

If the field expands to 14, there will be two extra first-round games in December, competing with the NFL.

A 16-team format would add four extra games, which could mean renegotiating TV deals to bring in even more money.

This playoff expansion is just part of a bigger power shift in college sports. The SEC and Big Ten have

already secured more control over the CFP's format and money, and they're looking to take that influence even further.

Beyond football, these conferences—and others—are pushing for more control over things like the NCAA basketball tournament, which could also expand.

Everything is being driven by TV deals, revenue sharing with athletes, and the battle for financial dominance in college athletics.

Decisions are expected soon, but one thing's for sure—change is coming. Whether the playoff grows to 14 or 16 teams, the SEC and Big Ten are making sure their teams are taken care of.

Conference championships might look different, scheduling could get a shake-up, and TV money will continue to drive the sport's future.

At the end of the day, this is all about two things: more playoff spots for the biggest conferences and more money for everyone involved. Buckle up—college football's postseason is about to get a whole new look.





BIG RED RIVER

Jordan Triplett Transfers to Cornell By Jeff Doke



Jordan Triplett knows a thing or two about making moves on the football field. Now, he's making a big one off the field.

The Class of 2024 Frederica Academy alum is transferring to Cornell University.

Triplett entered the NCAA Transfer Portal earlier in the month after spending his first year in college at Air Force Academy.

While he was impressive in practice and dressed for several games, Jordan did not take the field for a single down in the regular season.

While disappointing, this was not surprising, considering AFA Head Coach Troy Calhoun hasn't used a freshman in-game since his second year at the helm in 2007.

Contributing to his decision to enter the portal was the speculation that he would still be at best 3rd string in the Falcon's Running Back room, leaving him with only two years at best to make his case with the NFL.

At Cornell, Triplett is expected to contribute on the field immediately and will still have 4 years of eligibility remaining.

Located in Ithaca, New York, Cornell University plays in the Ivy League Conference and is one of the oldest football programs in the country. Known as "The Big Red," Cornell claims five National Championships - the most recent in 1939 - and three Conference Championships in 1971, 1988, and 1990.

Triplett joins the team for the second season under Head Coach Dan Swanstrom. While the team went 4-6 in his first year at the helm, Swanstrom

does have an impressive all time head coaching record of 36-17, including three conference championships while leading the Ithaca College Bombers of the D-III Liberty League.

While in the portal, Jordan received offers from seven other schools including Carson Newman, San Diego, Marist, Stetson, Elon, and Idaho State.

The final decision came down to Cornell and the 2023 D-II National Champion Harding University Bisons, who offered Triplett a full scholarship as well as an NIL package. The decision between the two was not an easy one according to Jordan's father Mark Triplett.

"If Jordan would have went to Harding, he would be able to compete for a National Championship," said the elder Triplett.

"Harding is a good school academically but Jordan has always looked for schools with strong academics. He wanted to play in the Ivy League because he knows that an education from there would set him up for life. He strongly considered Columbia before he went to Air Force, but there was so much going on in NYC at the time he reconsidered."

While recommendations from Frederica's Head Coach Brandon Derrick and his staff - as well as Glynn

Academy Head Coach Rocky Hidalgo - helped to get the conversation with Cornell started, the chemistry has been easily established.

"(Jordan) met the RB coach (Assistant Coach Terry Ursin) in person and has spoken with the head coach and offensive coordinators a lot over the last couple of weeks," explains Mark.

"He knows he has to compete, but (Cornell's) offensive system is more suited for him than playing Fullback at Air Force. Harding has a similar offense as Air Force, and Jordan wanted to play RB in a more traditional way"

Jordan Triplett is the All-time High School Rushing Leader in the state of Georgia. In his four years at Frederica, he rushed for 9,028 yards and is the only player in Georgia history to eclipse the 9,000-yard mark.

He also tied the all-time Georgia single season rushing record 3,172 yards, is #3 on the all-time touchdown list with 115, and is the only player in Georgia high school history with multiple 400-yard rushing performances (3).

Cornell opens their 2025 campaign on the road at University at Albany (NY) on September 20 and has their home opener against Colgate on October 4.



Named Top 20 Golf Course in Georgia by Golf Magazine



**A Historic Donald Ross Designed Private Club
Home of the Golden Isles Golf Academy
Just down from St. Simons Island Causeway on HWY 17**

call 912.264.4377 or visit Brunswickcountryclub.com

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

THE **SOUTHERN SPORTS** EDITION
.COM

DAILY
Insight, Columns and Opinions
on your favorite
Southern Sports Teams

www.thesouthernsportsedition.com



The Strike Zone



Brunswick's Premier Family Fun Center

912-265-6600

www.tgistrikezone.com



What's Your Summit?

Our team of experts will help you get there.

Whether your “summit” is an epic comeback just in time for the championship game or winning a medal for the best cut grass in the neighborhood, Summit Sports Medicine & Orthopaedic Surgery is here to help you ascend to new heights.

OUR ORTHOPAEDIC EXPERTS INCLUDE:



Jason G. Bowman, MD
Orthopaedic Surgeon
Foot and Ankle
Surgery



Denny A. Carter, MD
Orthopaedic Surgeon
Sports Medicine;
Hip and Knee
Replacement



Jason M. Dancy, MD
Interventional Physiatrist
Physical Medicine
and Rehabilitation;
Non-Surgical Spine Care



Gregory R. Kelley, MD
Physiatrist
Physical Medicine
and Rehabilitation;
Non-Surgical Spine Care



Beau Sasser, MD
Orthopaedic Surgeon
Sports Medicine;
Shoulder, Hip and
Knee Replacement



Michael J. Sullivan, MD
Orthopaedic Surgeon
Hand, Wrist and
Elbow Surgery



Lindsey E. Sweat, MD
Concussion
Management;
Sports Medicine



Christopher Yonz, MD
Orthopaedic Surgeon
General Orthopaedics;
Sports Medicine;
Shoulder, Hip and Knee
Replacements



SUMMIT
Sports Medicine & Orthopaedic Surgery

A strategic affiliate of
Southeast Georgia Health System

BRUNSWICK
912-466-7340

ST. SIMONS ISLAND
912-466-5570

ST. MARYS
912-576-6355