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May 2026 Edition



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GET TO KNOW THE WRITERS



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Kenneth Harrison, 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.



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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.



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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.

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When the Jacksonville Jaguars walked into the 2026 NFL Draft, they were already operating under a different set of circumstances than most teams.

For the first time in franchise history, Jacksonville didn't have a first round pick.

But that wasn't an accident. That pick had already been spent a year earlier in a deal with the Cleveland Browns that helped the Jaguars land one of the most electric young players in football, Travis Hunter, with the second overall pick in 2025.

So, when you look at Jacksonville's 2026 draft, you can't judge it the same way you judge most draft classes.

There wasn't going to be a splashy headline pick. Instead, this draft was about building the roster out and giving quarterback Trevor Lawrence more help. And honestly, that's exactly what the Jaguars tried to do.

Jacksonville started in the second round by selecting Texas A&M tight end Nate Boerkircher. That pick makes a lot of sense when you think about what this offense needs.

For years, the Jaguars have been trying to get more production out of the tight end position, and Boerkircher brings a nice mix of pass catching ability and blocking. In other words, he's the kind of player who can stay on the field for all three downs.

Then in the third round, Jacksonville went back to Texas A&M again and grabbed defensive tackle Albert Regis. This one felt like a classic "get bigger and tougher" type of pick.

The Jaguars have had stretches where they struggled to control the line of scrimmage, especially against the run, and Regis adds some muscle inside.

But if there's a pick Jaguars fans should really pay attention to, it might be offensive lineman Emmanuel Pregon from Oregon.

If this franchise is serious about getting the most out of Trevor Lawrence, protecting him has to be priority number one. Pregon brings versatility along the offensive line, and depth up front is never a bad thing in the NFL.

The Jaguars kept addressing needs later in the third round when they selected Maryland defensive back Jalen Huskey, a guy who picked off four passes last season. Jacksonville has clearly been trying to add more playmakers in the secondary, and Huskey fits that mold.

Once day three rolled around, the Jaguars shifted into what you might call roster building mode. They even traded up in the fourth round to grab Duke edge rusher Wesley Williams, which tells you he was a player they specifically wanted.

The rest of the class added more depth across the board. Houston tight end Tanner Koziol, Baylor wide receiver Josh Cameron, Stanford

receiver CJ Williams, Washington edge rusher Zach Durfee, and linebacker Parker Hughes out of Middle Tennessee State.

Now let's be honest. None of those picks are going to dominate the national headlines.

That's just the reality when you don't have a first round pick.

But here's the thing Jaguars fans should remember. A lot of really good NFL teams are built on day two and day three of the draft.

You don't always need the flashy pick. Sometimes what you really need are solid players who fill roles, compete for snaps, and develop over time. And that's what Jacksonville seems to be aiming for here.

This draft felt less like a blockbuster and more like a roster tune up. Add a weapon for Trevor Lawrence. Strengthen the offensive line. Get bigger up front on defense. Bring in competition at receiver and in the secondary.

It might not be the kind of draft that gets fans jumping out of their seats right now.

But if even a few of these players turn into reliable contributors, the Jaguars might look back a couple of years from now and realize this class quietly helped push the team forward.



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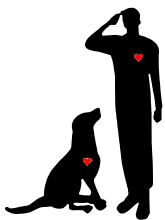
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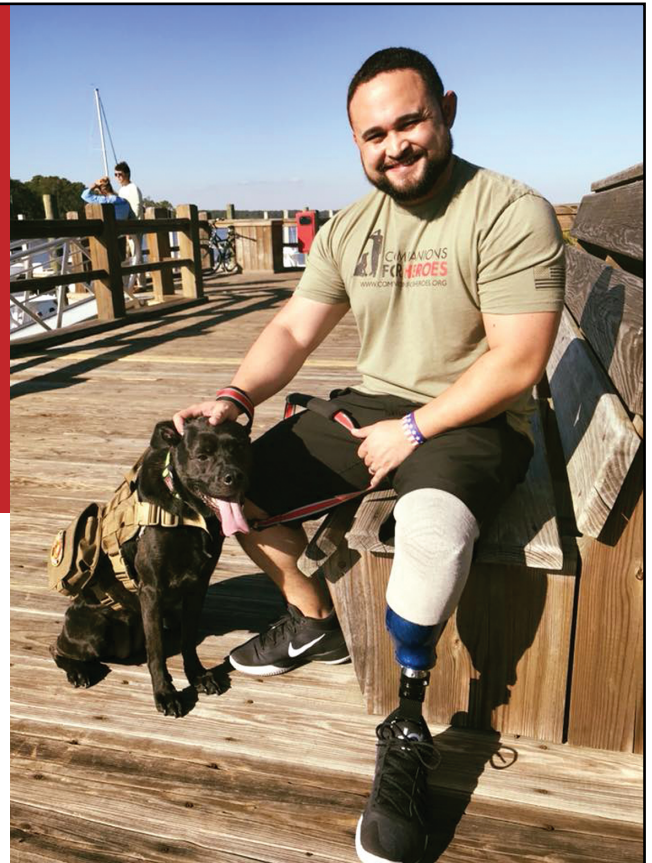
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RISING UP?

Falcons 2026 Draft By Colin Lacy



First year for the new regime for the Atlanta Falcons hit the first landmark with the NFL Draft this past weekend.

Ian Cunningham as the GM spearheaded his first draft week in line with new Head Coach Kevin Stefanski and Director of Football Matt Ryan and made an impact especially on the defensive side of the ball.

After the deal last season to trade up and pick Michael Penix Jr, the Falcons didn't have a first-round pick in 2026, so the Birds didn't make a selection until the 48th overall pick in the 2nd round.

The Falcons went to the ACC for their first selection with a cornerback from Clemson and kept the football in the family. Avieon Terrell, younger brother of current Falcons DB AJ Terrell, became the newest Falcon after 3 years with Clemson, including an All-ACC season last year for the Tigers.

In 2025, Terrell had a nose for football forcing a Clemson single season record 5 forced fumbles to go along with 9 pass breakups, 4.5 TFLs and 3 sacks. There are questions where Terrell will land if he stays at corner or comes inside at safety but could be an impactful piece for the Falcons in the fall.

In the 3rd round, Atlanta kept it close to home with pulling Georgia receiver Zachariah Branch off the board.

Branch molded into a slot receiver who can turn a medial gain into an explosive play with his speed in his time in Athens. Branch brings a multitude of weapons to the NFL both

as a receiver but also on special teams as a kick/punt returner. There is some fine tuning of routes and mechanics that NFL scouts have pointed out, but Branch expects to contribute early for the Falcons.

The page turned to the 4th round and the Falcons had pick number 134. With that 4th round selection, Atlanta turned to Oklahoma to snag former Sooner linebacker Kendal Daniels.

Daniels converted from safety to linebacker in his time at Oklahoma and earned a reputation in the SEC as being able to use his speed to fill the gap in run defense. After 4 seasons at Oklahoma State, Daniels moved to Norman and racked up 9 TFLs in 13 starts in the middle of the Sooner defense.

Without a selection in the 5th round, the Falcons made a move to pick up an extra 6th round selection.

With the first 6th round pick, the Falcons looked to beef up the defensive line that made a huge step forward in 2025 and added Washington D-Lineman Anterio Thompson.

Thompson spent his time at Washington as a defensive tackle on the interior of the D-line, but may see a move to the edge in the NFL. The leaps that Thompson has made in his time in college profiles him to be able to do it.

What, in my opinion, could be most impactful pick for the Falcons in 2026 when it's all said and done came with the second 6th round pick when the ATL called upon the LSU Linebacker Harold Perkins Jr. Perkins missed all of 2024 with an ACL tear but was the key to the LSU success in his time in Baton Rouge.

The Falcons wrapped up the draft with their 7th round pick and the 231st overall selection of O-lineman Ethan Onianwa from Ohio State. The 6'6" 333 pounder tackle looks to give depth to the Falcons O-Line and progress under leadership and experience of Jake Matthews on the Falcons' front.

While there's not the first round, high profile talent in the draft class, but an extremely solid class that could prove to be impactful in the near future as a whole for the ATL.





Future Athletic Trainers Get Hands-On Experience at Summer Camp

High school students interested in sports medicine will have a hands-on opportunity to explore the field this summer at the 13th annual Student Athletic Trainer Camp, hosted by Southeast Georgia Health System.

Set for June 23–25, 2026, the three-day camp is open to students entering grades 9 through 12 and will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day at Brunswick High School. The program is designed to introduce students to careers that blend athletics, health care and performance, offering a practical look at the role athletic trainers play in keeping athletes healthy and competition-ready.

Rather than a lecture-based experience, the camp emphasizes active learning. Participants rotate through interactive stations focused on real-world sports medicine techniques, gaining exposure to the fast-paced environment athletic trainers navigate daily. Students learn how to evaluate and respond to common sports injuries while also developing an understanding of the broader health care network that supports athletes at all levels.

Led by certified athletic trainers from the Southeast Georgia Health System Sports Medicine team, the program offers guided instruction that helps students develop foundational skills, build confidence, and explore careers in sports medicine and related health professions.

Hands-on training covers a range of essential skills, including injury evaluation and basic treatment, athletic taping and bracing techniques, hands-only CPR and automated external defibrillator (AED) use, and first aid fundamentals. The experience is designed not only to teach practical skills, but also to highlight the variety of roles available in sports medicine and the impact those roles have on athlete safety and performance.

The cost of the camp is \$130 and includes materials, lab supplies, a T-shirt, lunch and snacks. Space is limited, and registration is open through June 8, 2026.



More information and registration details are available at sghs.org/satc or scan the QR code.



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FLYING TO NEW HEIGHTS?

Atlanta Hawks Playoff Run By Colin Lacy



For the first time since the 2022-23 season, the Atlanta Hawks have marched into the postseason as the 6-seed in the Eastern Conference side of the NBA Playoffs bracket.

The Hawks finished the regular season with a 46-36 overall record and with a late push in the second half of the season propelled their way to the South Division title finishing with a 20-6 record after the All-Star Break.

As odd as it sounds, the shift in the season came when the Hawks traded away All-Star Trae Young in the first half of the year, but the team molded together.

Thanks in part to emerging stars CJ McCollum & Nickeil Alexander-Walker along with a commitment to the defensive side of the ball, the Hawks found the secret sauce in the ATL.

Now don't get me wrong, one of (if not the single) headlines for Atlanta was Jalen Johnson who paced the team with 22.5 points per game, 10.3 rebounds and just shy of 8 assists per game in his first All-Star selection year.

As much as defense can be optional at times in the NBA, that wasn't the case for Atlanta this year. Led by Dyson Daniels, the Hawks turned in a top 10 defensive rating this season.

In the Opening round of the NBA Playoffs, the Hawks drew the 3-seeded New York Knicks who finished the season 53-29 and secured the home court advantage in the opening round.

Game one of the series at Madison Square Garden went the way of the Knicks who leaned on the back of Jalen Brunson who scored 28 points along with Karl-Anthony Towns who helped seal the game with 19 of his 25 points coming in the second half of the game.

The second game of the series from "the Garden" came with dramatics. The Knicks led by 12 after three quarters, but the Hawks chipped back until taking a lead with 2:09 to play at 101-100.

A back-and-forth affair the last 2 minutes of the game traded baskets until Jalen Johnson slammed one home with 10 seconds left to make the game 107-103 Hawks.

Brunson would knock down a 3 to cut it to a 1-point game. The Knicks fouled CJ McCollum (who finished with 32 points on the night) with 6 seconds remaining.

As McCollum tried to ice the game at the line, he would end up missing both free throws. The Hawks would be able to take a sigh of relief as a Knicks' fadeaway jumper would miss and give the Hawks the win and even the series at one each with the 107-106 final.

The series would come home to the ATL for game three on, but the dramatics would make the plane flight too. CJ McCollum once again found the ball in his hand at the end and would connect.

After the Hawks led by as many as 18 in the first half, the Knicks rallied to take the lead 108-105 with 1:03 remaining, but a few possessions later with 12.5 seconds left, CJ McCollum hit a 15-foot fadeaway to put the Hawks back on top and secure the Game 3 win 109-108.

Game four in Atlanta would swing the pendulum back in the way of New York with a 114-98 Knicks win. The Knicks would lead virtually the entire game thanks in large part to Karl-Anthony Towns finishing with a triple-double (20pts/10reb/10ast) to knot the series at 2 games apiece and send the series back to New York for Game 5.

The Hawks haven't advanced past the Opening Round of the NBA Playoffs since the 2020-21 season but will rely on Jalen Johnson and CJ McCollum to try to change that in 2026 with a couple road wins at Madison Square Garden.

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AWAY

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					27 ROC 7:05PM	28 ROC 6:35PM
29 ROC 2:05PM	30	31 SUG 7:05PM	1 SUG 12:05PM	2 SUG 7:05PM	3 SUG 7:05PM	4 SUG 6:35PM
5 SUG 2:05PM	6	7 NOR 6:35PM	8 NOR 6:35PM	9 NOR 12:05PM	10 NOR 6:35PM	11 NOR 6:35PM
12 NOR 11:05AM	13	14 CLT 11:05AM	15 CLT 7:05PM	16 CLT 7:05PM	17 CLT 7:05PM	18 CLT 6:35PM
19 CLT 2:05PM	20	21 GWN 6:05PM	22 GWN 11:05AM	23 GWN 7:05PM	24 GWN 7:05PM	25 GWN 6:05PM
26 GWN 1:05PM	27	28 DUR 11:05AM	29 DUR 6:45PM	30 DUR 6:45PM		

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 NAS 7:35PM	2 NAS 7:35PM	3 NAS 7:35PM	4 NAS 7:05PM
5 NAS 7:05PM	6	7 DUR 7:05PM	8 DUR 7:05PM	9 DUR 7:05PM	10 DUR 7:05PM	11 DUR 6:35PM
12 DUR 1:05PM	13	14-16 ALL-STAR BREAK			17 ROC 6:45PM	18 ROC 6:45PM
19 ROC 6:05PM	20	21 WOR 6:45PM	22 WOR 6:45PM	23 WOR 12:05PM	24 WOR 6:45PM	25 WOR 4:05PM
26 WOR 1:05PM	27	28 MEM 7:05PM	29 MEM 7:05PM	30 MEM 7:05PM	31 MEM 7:05PM	

MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 DUR 6:45PM	2 DUR 6:45PM
3 DUR 1:05PM	4	5 CLT 7:05PM	6 CLT 12:05PM	7 CLT 7:05PM	8 CLT 7:05PM	9 CLT 6:35PM
10 CLT 2:05PM	11	12 MEM 7:45PM	13 MEM 1:05PM	14 MEM 12:05PM	15 MEM 8:05PM	16 MEM 7:35PM
17 MEM 2:05PM	18	19 NOR 7:05PM	20 NOR 12:05PM	21 NOR 7:05PM	22 NOR 7:05PM	23 NOR 6:35PM
24 NOR 6:35PM	25	26 CLT 6:35PM	27 CLT 6:35PM	28 CLT 7:04PM	29 CLT 7:04PM	30 CLT 6:05PM
31 CLT 1:05PM						

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 MEM 6:35PM
2 MEM 5:05PM	3	4 GWN 6:35PM	5 GWN 6:35PM	6 GWN 7:05PM	7 GWN 8:05PM	8 GWN 6:05PM
9 GWN 4:05PM	10	11 SYR 7:05PM	12 SYR 7:05PM	13 SYR 7:05PM	14 SYR 7:05PM	15 SYR 6:35PM
16 SYR 5:05PM	17	18 MEM 7:45PM	19 MEM 7:45PM	20 MEM 7:45PM	21 MEM 8:05PM	22 MEM 7:35PM
23 MEM 2:05PM	24	25 NAS 7:05PM	26 NAS 7:05PM	27 NAS 7:05PM	28 NAS 7:05PM	29 NAS 6:35PM
30 NAS 2:05PM	31					

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 NAS 7:05PM	3 NAS 7:05PM	4 NAS 7:35PM	5 NAS 7:05PM	6 NAS 6:35PM
7 NAS 2:05PM	8	9 GWN 7:05PM	10 GWN 7:05PM	11 GWN 7:05PM	12 GWN 7:05PM	13 GWN 6:35PM
14 GWN 2:05PM	15	16 DUR 6:45PM	17 DUR 12:05PM	18 DUR 6:45PM	19 DUR 6:45PM	20 DUR 6:45PM
21 DUR 5:05PM	22	23 MEM 12:05PM	24 MEM 12:05PM	25 MEM 7:05PM	26 MEM 7:05PM	27 MEM 6:35PM
28 MEM 2:05PM	29	30 NAS 7:35PM				

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 NOR 6:35PM	2 NOR 6:35PM	3 NOR 12:05PM	4 NOR 6:35PM	5 NOR 6:35PM
6 NOR 1:05PM	7	8 GWN 7:05PM	9 GWN 7:05PM	10 GWN 7:05PM	11 GWN 7:05PM	12 GWN 6:35PM
13 GWN 2:05PM	14	15 SWB 7:05PM	16 SWB 1:05PM	17 SWB 7:05PM	18 SWB 7:05PM	19 SWB 6:05PM
20 SWB 1:35PM						

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NEXT LEVEL CAMDEN ATHLETES

Wildcats Continue Tradition of Excellence By Michael Spiers



One thing Camden County High School has become known for over the years is producing athletes who don't stop competing when their high school careers end.

Across multiple sports, Wildcat athletes continue to earn opportunities to play at the college level, carrying with them the work ethic and competitive mindset they developed right here in Kingsland.

Recent college commitments are just the latest examples of that tradition. From wrestling and golf to football, tennis, softball, and soccer, Camden athletes continue to prove they can compete with programs across the country.

One of the most decorated athletes to come through the Camden wrestling program in recent years is Ryder Wilder, who will be heading to Northwestern University, one of the premier wrestling programs in the nation. Northwestern competes in the Big Ten, widely considered the toughest conference in Division I wrestling.

Wilder built an impressive resume during his time at Camden, winning four individual state championships while helping lead the Wildcats to team titles each of his four years.

His signing shows just how strong Camden's wrestling program continues to be, regularly producing athletes who can compete at the highest level of college wrestling.

Another Camden wrestling

standout is Hunter Prosen, who signed with NAIA powerhouse Southeastern University in Lakeland, Florida.

Prosen put together an incredible high school career, winning three individual state championships in three different weight classes and helping the Wildcats capture four team state titles in both duals and traditional formats.

His combination of talent, toughness, and dedication made him one of the top wrestlers Camden has ever produced. At Southeastern, he plans to continue wrestling while also pursuing a career in aviation with hopes of becoming a pilot.

The Wildcat tradition extends well beyond the wrestling mat.

On the golf course, standout Georgia Blount signed with James Madison University, a Division I program in Virginia.

Blount has been one of the most consistent high school golfers in Georgia, finishing second in the GHSA state tournament as both a freshman and sophomore before placing third last season.

Years of dedication and practice helped her reach this level, and the coaching staff at James Madison believes she has the talent and leadership to succeed in their program.

National Signing Day also brought several other Wildcat athletes the chance to celebrate the next step in their athletic careers.

Gracie Robinson signed to play tennis at Piedmont University, while softball standout Hannah Turley committed to Gordon State College.

On the football side, three Wildcats are also moving on.

Linebacker Zion Branch will play at Daytona Beach Christian in Florida. Safety William Johnson earned one of the most impressive opportunities of all, signing with the United States Air Force Academy. And running back Antwan Williams will continue his career at Reinhardt University.

Each of these players helped represent Camden County on Friday nights and will now take their talents to the college level.

Soccer is also part of the Wildcat pipeline.

Senior Joshua "David" Hewitt recently signed with Toccoa Falls College, where he will continue playing for the Screaming Eagles while also earning the school's Presidential Scholarship.

Of course, these athletes represent only a small sample of the many Wildcats who have continued their careers in college athletics. Every year, Camden County sends athletes to programs across the country.

Their success is a reflection of the strong culture built by coaches, teachers, and families who support them along the way.

More importantly, it reflects the countless hours these athletes spend practicing, training, and competing to reach their goals.

For me, watching Camden athletes sign scholarships and continue playing the sports they love never gets old.

It is simply another reminder that the Wildcat tradition of excellence doesn't stop at graduation. It just moves on to the next level.



SPRING BUZZ

Georgia Tech Spring Game By Kenneth Harrison



Georgia Tech played their spring game over the weekend. Team Swarm won, 34-10 over Team Wreck 'Em in the Yellow Jackets' annual White & Gold Game.

The game consisted of four quarters – the first half with 12-minute quarters and standard clock operations, the second half with 15-minute quarters and a running clock.

Tech went 9-4 last season and finished ranked No. 24. They were ranked as high as No. 7 during the season and they were 6-2 in the ACC.

The 2026 roster features five returning all-ACC performers from last year's team (PK Aidan Birr, OL Malachi Carney, LB Kyle Efford, RB Malachi Hosley and OL Ethan Mackenny) and 19 highly touted incoming transfers, headlined by RB Justice Haynes and QB Alberto Mendoza.

"Alberto is the guy," coach Brent Key said when asked about the Yellow Jackets' quarterbacks' room after Saturday's spring game.

Mendoza was named offensive captain for the spring game, completing 12 of 16 passes for 148 yards and one touchdown. The redshirt sophomore is the younger brother of Heisman Trophy winner, Fernando Mendoza.

Mendoza announced his decision to transfer less than 24 hours after winning a national title at Indiana, where he was the backup for his older brother, who is expected to be the No. 1 pick in this week's NFL draft.

"Obviously, he still has to compete and still has to win the job,

but he's done nothing to disappoint me and think that's not going to be the case," Key told Georgia Tech's radio network during the spring game.

Haynes transferred in from Michigan. Last season he rushed for 857 yards, 10 touchdowns and he averaged 7.1 yards per carry. The senior running back ran nine times for 48 yards in Saturday's intrasquad scrimmage.

Sophomore running back J.P. Powell had a game-high 68 yards on just three carries, including a 56-yard touchdown run.

Senior running back Malachi Hosley averaged 6.2 yards per carry (4 carries for 26 yards) including an 18-yard touchdown. Last season Hosley rushed for 697 yards, 7 touchdowns and he averaged 7.1 ypc. He also had 14 receptions for 119 yards.

It looks like the Yellow Jackets will have a deep running back room, if these guys don't transfer before the season.

Redshirt freshman tight end

Kevin Roche Jr. had game highs with six receptions for 70 yards. His longest catch was 35 yards and he was always open and making plays for Team Swarm. He looks like he could have a big role going into the fall.

Redshirt freshman quarterback Grady Adamson and redshirt junior running back Chad Alexander were responsible for Team Swarm's remaining three touchdowns, as the connected on an 11-yard scoring pass and each had 3-yard TD runs. Adamson completed 8 of 11 passes for 104 yards.

Sophomore wide receivers Debron Gatling and Jordan Allen had 47 and 42 receiving yards, respectively (Gatling's included an 18-yard TD catch from Mendoza).

Defensively, transfer defensive ends Jordan Walker (Rutgers) and Noah Carter (Alabama) had two sacks apiece for Team Swarm, while redshirt senior defensive back Savion Riley led Team Wreck 'Em with a game-high seven tackles.





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NATTY OR BUST?

Georgia Spring Practice By Joe Delaney



Well, spring is here and one of the most beautiful places in the state is Athens. With a temperature in the 70's and the azaleas busting out everywhere, Athens is hard to beat.

Throw in a couple tickets I had to see the Tennis Dawgs take out South Carolina on a Friday night and the Baseball Dawgs do the same the next day to those Florida Gators and well, it's just special.

At that same time, we got glimpses of the 2026 Football Dawgs as they were hard into spring practice.

The general consensus was that the football Dawgs could be very special this year. VERY special.

The next week was the spring game and after seeing it, I can see why. These Dawgs are tight. They have leadership, athleticism, depth, and a hunger to go back to the top.

From Kirby on down, these guys want all the marbles in 2026. The great Georgia guru Rusty Mansell put it out there. Georgia has "a roster built to play for a national championship".

Are they as loaded as the back-to-back National Champions of a couple years back? Maybe not, but they might be just as good. Let's take a look.

It starts with the top. Georgia has Kirby. The Dawgs also have one of the best overall staffs in the country. Throw in an administration and athletic director that are all on the same page and few programs in the country can match the Red and Black.

On the field it all starts with the QB, and Georgia has a good one in Gunner Stockton. While he might not be as flashy as some, he has that something that his teammates love; grit, determination, and a will to win.

With his experience running this offense, he is one of the top returning signal callers in the country. Behind him are 4 others with Ryan Puglisi currently number 2. Watch out for upcoming Ryan Montgomery who is pushing up the depth chart. The key to these guys is keeping Gunner healthy.

The backs will be very good, led by Nate Frazier. Throw in Chauncey Bowens, the electric Dwight Phillips and a couple of highly touted youngsters and Georgia will run the ball. And look out for Dante Dowdell, a transfer with speed, size and experience. His 20 something yard run while hurdling a defender was one of the spring game highlights.

Next are the wide receivers and tight ends. The wideouts will be bolstered by transfer Isiah Canion, and have talent all over with returners Landon Humphreys, C J Wiley, Talyn Taylor and newcomer Kaiden Prothro a 6' 6" 230 lb 5-star freshman who starred in the spring game.

This group should be solid especially when paired with the best tight end group in the country. Between Lawson Luckie, Elyiss Williams, Ethan Barbour, and Jaden Reddell, the only problem will be how to get them all on the field.

Reddell showed out in the spring game and there are 2 or 3 others behind these guys. Like I said, this is the best TE group in the country. Look for the Dawgs to run some 3 or 4 TE sets with 1 running back.

None of the above means a thing if the O-line can't do its thing but Georgia should be deep and very good on the line.

Drew Bobo will anchor the O-line at center. Add in returning starters Dontrell Glover, Juan Gaston, Earnest Green and it will be solid. Oh, and don't forget newcomers Zykie Helton, and Jah Jackson, all 6'10" 350 lbs of him. This offense will have a hundred different ways to score and should be lethal.

Defensively the Dawgs will be loaded with returning starters all over the place. The D-Line will be big, deep, and athletic with plenty of experience.

Josh Horton, Xzavier Mcleod, Joseph Jonah-Ajonye, Nnamdi Ogboko all return and are back along with Elijah Griffin who has All-American written all over him. There is depth there also.

What the TE's bring to the offense the LB's are to the Georgia defense.

Raylen Wilson, Justin Williams, Chris Cole, and Gabe Harris make this group elite and remember the Name Chase Linton. Look for him this fall. There is also depth behind these guys with Nick Abrams, Zayden Walker and others..

The DB's should be solid with returners Ellis Robinson IV, K J Bolden, Demello Jones, Rasean Dinkins, Kyrion Jones, and transfers Braylon Conley, Khalil, and Gentry Williams.

The kicking is in good hands with Peyton Woodring although the punting cannot match the loss of thunderfoot Brett Thorson.

The special teams should be very good with a host of players vying for playing time to get on the field and impress.

All and all this is a loaded football team. Big, fast, physical with depth all over.

To me the keys to a run at the Natty are things that need to be improved on from a 12-2 team in 2025.

First is rush the passer, Georgia was lacking in this last year and the injury to transfer Amaris Williams during the spring didn't help. That's priority number one.

Next is, keep Gunner healthy. While there is quality behind him, Gunner is the man.

And last is get a little luck. This team can beat any team in the country if they are on. But they are not the 21 or 22 outfits. They'll need a little luck here and there. If those three keys come to fruition, I like our chances.

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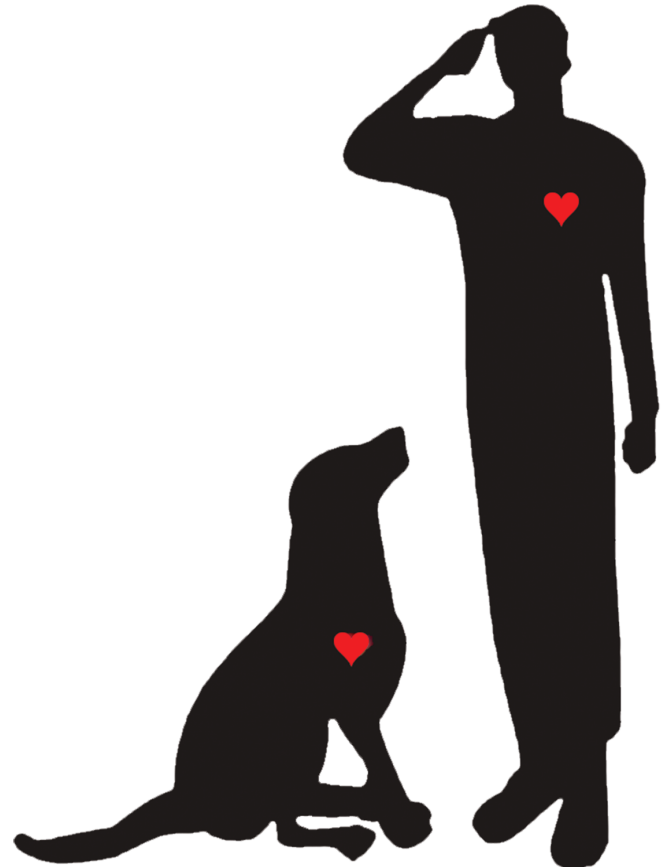


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SHINY ARMOR?

UCF Questions By Robert Craft



UCF Spring Football is underway, and the Knights have another opportunity to learn more about their reshaped roster under head coach Scott Frost as he enters his second first season in Orlando.

While expectations of another 2017-style undefeated run are unrealistic, optimism around this team is growing fast. UCF returns with a strong amount of production from last season while also adding key transfers, providing a much stronger foundation than it had a year ago.

Although the season remains months away, spring football offers the first real look at what this team could become in 2026. From position battles to scheme fits and leadership development, there is plenty to learn before kickoff arrives.

Here are the three offensive biggest questions UCF needs to answer during spring football.

How quickly can Alonzo Barnett III take command of the offense? There is no question Alonzo Barnett III is the headline addition of UCF's offseason.

Adding a projected starting quarterback who just led JMU on a run to the College Football Playoff immediately raises both the standard and the expectations for UCF entering the 2026 season.

Head coach Scott Frost and the staff believe in Barnett beyond physical tools. They view him as a proven winner, someone with the leadership, poise, and playmaking ability to elevate the players around him.

The biggest question, though, is how quickly that success can translate. Barnett spent the past four seasons at James Madison developing within one system and growing comfortable in that environment.

Now, he is being asked to step into a new offense, build chemistry with a new locker room and replicate that same production in essentially one offseason. No pressure, right?

One of the biggest focuses this spring is Frost and quarterbacks coach McKenzie Milton. They must work to build timing, chemistry and overall cohesiveness around football's most important position on the field.

Can AJ Blazek fix UCF's offensive line issues? The Knight's offensive line enters spring as one of the biggest areas to monitor after difficulty and inconsistency in 2025.

The Knights endured the tragic loss of offensive line coach Shawn Clack early in the year, and even with Danny Hope stepping in to help stabilize the group, the unit never fully found its rhythm.

At times, the line showed flashes individually. Collectively they struggled, which led to costly mistakes, like penalties at the worst possible moments. Whether it was a holding call or a false start, it frequently felt like UCF's momentum was being derailed during key second-half drives or comeback opportunities.

Now, UCF turns to new offensive line coach AJ Blazek to reshape the group.

Blazek wasted no time putting his stamp on the room, helping bring in four transfer portal additions to compete for major roles up front. While the tackle spots appear relatively stable entering spring, the biggest questions lie on the interior, where center and guard battles could play a major role in

determining the offense's ceiling.

Few position groups will be impacted more by UCF's offensive line play than the running backs.

Who will emerge as UCF's lead running back? The Knights brought in two experienced transfer backs in Duke Watson and Laden Chambers, both of whom are expected to compete for major roles in the offense. Each brings a different skill set, but both have the experience to help carry the load in Scott Frost's system.

The biggest question is who will separate themselves as the true three-down back.

That battle becomes even more intriguing with Taevion Swint returning to the mix after missing last season with a meniscus injury. The former four-star recruit has worked his way back and gives UCF another talented option in the room if he is fully healthy.

Spring camp should provide the first real look at how the workload could be divided and whether one back is ready to take control of the position group.

Spring practices officially begin for the Knights on March 31st, giving UCF their first real chance to start answering these 3 questions on the field.



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