

## Preseason All-State: Class AAA

# Reigning champions Peach Co., Sandy Creek well-represented

Class AAA contains two Atlanta Journal-Constitution/GHSF Daily Super 11 players in Gainesville's A.J. Johnson and Grady's Damian Swann. It also contains perhaps the three most controversial Super 11 omissions in Dalton's Watts Dantzer, Monroe Area's Stephon Tuitt and Troup's Quan Bray, all of whom are consensus top 10 recruits in Georgia.

Class AAA also is home to several players with previous all-state recognition who aren't being recruited that heavily because of size or other factors. Included in those are Washington County's little Montravious "Whistle" Gladdin, who rushed for more than 1,700 yards last season.

Reigning state champions Sandy Creek and Peach County are represented by five players total. Washington County matches Sandy Creek for the most with three. Peach County has two, including OL Renard Williams, who is moving to TE this season but is listed at the position at which he was all-state in 2009.

The schools and hometowns of three players are often listed incorrectly on recruiting Web sites. Stephon Tuitt is from Monroe Area, not Monroe of Albany, whose coach is Charles Truitt. Bryan Chamberlain plays for Truitt at Monroe of Albany, not Monroe Area. And Davonta Rogers plays for Washington of Atlanta, not Washington-Wilkes.

Region 7 has the most selections with five, while Region 6 has the fewest with one. Historically, that would be reversed. Northwest Georgia has having a nice run in putting out top talent the past three or four years, especially underrated Ridgeland. The region tallies are: Region 1 (2), Region 2 (4), Region 3 (4), Region 4 (3), Region 5 (4), Region 6 (1), Region 7 (5) and Region 8 (2).

### Offense

QB - Ronnie Bell, Sandy Creek, Sr.  
RB - Tre Beck, Dalton, Jr.  
RB - Montravious Gladdin, Washington County, Sr.  
WR - Alex Chisum, Sandy Creek, Sr.  
WR - Vincent Dallas, Cedar Grove, Sr.  
TE - Jrametries Kirksay, Washington County, Sr.  
OL - Bryan Chamberlain, Monroe, Sr.  
OL - Watts Dantzer, Dalton, Sr.  
OL - Chartavious Danzy, Washington County, Sr.  
OL - Renard Williams, Peach County, Sr.  
OL - Davonta Rogers, Washington, Sr.  
ATH - Quan Bray, Troup, Sr.  
PK - Dustin Dekert, Hephzibah, Sr.



### Cool new hat and T for the Falcons

Wherever you may be - floating on an iceberg outside Alaska or the sandy shores of Key West - everyone knows what the ATL stands for. So the Falcons, the NFL team that is making Samuel L. Jackson a household name (just kidding), have added to their look by combining the ATL with the team logo. You can be one of the first ones to purchase the hat and T-shirt by clicking [here](#) for the hat and [here](#) for the T-shirt or go to [falcons365.com](http://falcons365.com). Rise Up!



[Join our Mailing List!](#)

### In This Issue

Preseason All-State: Class AAA

Coaches' Corner: Griffin's Steve DeVoursney

Rankings: GSWA/AP

List: Ten coaches with the most tenure who moved on

Scrimmage Schedule

Regular-Season Schedule

Newswire: Stephenson off to strong

## Defense

DL - Jonathan Battle, Americus-Sumter, Sr.  
DL - Dalvin Tomlinson, Henry County, Jr.

DL - Stephon Tuitt, Monroe Area, Sr.  
DL - Owen Williams, Westside (Macon), Sr.  
LB - Mason Harris, Ridgeland, Sr.  
LB - A.J. Johnson, Gainesville, Sr.  
LB - Demarcus Sherod, Columbia, Sr.  
DB - Devin Bowman, Ridgeland, Sr.  
DB - Dontavious Davis, Peach County, Sr.  
DB - Bruce Dukes, Sandy Creek, Sr.  
DB - Damian Swann, Grady, Sr.  
P - Collin Barber, Cartersville, Jr.

**Coming Thursday:** Class AA. We're still taking nominations for the remaining classes.

## Coaches' Corner: Griffin's Steve DeVoursney

### 'This is the most D-I guys I've ever had'

Griffin held the No. 1 ranking in Class AAAA for much of 2009 until losing to eventual champion Sandy Creek 22-15 in the semifinals. The Bears begin 2010 ranked No. 2 to Northside of Warner Robins. They have at least four Division I-A prospects in Super 11 DE Xzavier Dickson, DB Corey Moore (committed to Georgia), TE/HB Tye Turner (committed to Kentucky) and WR Nile Daniel.

GHSF Daily talked recently with Griffin coach Steve DeVoursney. Here's what he said about ...

**\*The 2009 team vs. the 2010 team:** "Offensively, we think we can do better than last year. Defensively, we took a hit with a couple of kids we can't replace. We've got about two kids that really have to step it up. If we do, we can be good. This is the most D-I guys I've ever had. Five have already been offered, three in the SEC. I've never had more than one since I've been here. Hopefully those five can carry the load."

**\*Xzavier Dickson:** "Great athlete. He can do everything. He can throw a ball about 70 yards, can punt, can run. You don't see many 250-pound kids who can run, catch and throw like him." [GHSF Daily: DeVoursney uses Dickson to practice kickoffs and punts because he doesn't have a player who can kick as far as Dickson can throw.]

**\*Dickson vs. his other Super 11 player, Toby Jackson from 2007:** "Toby is a better defensive guy than Xzavier and has a better motor and is more physical. Xzavier is a better athlete. Toby was just very dominant. When he hit you, he'd try to hurt you. He was a leader. He didn't let players take a play off. Xzavier is not like that. If you run at him, he'll make the play. If you run away from him, he might not. If Xzavier gets a better motor, the sky is the limit." [GHSF Daily: Jackson signed with Georgia but ended up at Navarro Junior College in Corsicana, Texas, and is a top JUCO prospect in the

start with recruiting class

Advertise With GHSF Daily

## List

### Moving on

**The 10 head coaches with the most continuous years at their school before resigning or moving to another school in the off-season:**

- 17 - Conrad Nix, Northside (Warner Robins)
- 16 - Friday Richards, Marietta
- 13 - Ron Lewis, Bryan County
- 13 - Mike Earwood, Starr's Mill
- 11 - Scott Jones, Kennesaw Mountain
- 10 - Jeff Bowen, Telfair County
- 10 - Dexter Copeland, Twiggs County
- 9 - Jesse Hicks, Baldwin
- 9 - Sean Pender, Brantley County
- 9 - Rick Sauls, Paulding County

## Scrimmages

### Preseason games continue this week

Here is the schedule of this week's preseason scrimmages. Let us know if we have an error, as preseason schedules are not compiled by the GHSA and must be gathered school by school. **Games added or corrected since Monday are notes in red.**

#### Today

Hephzibah at Jenkins Co.

#### Thursday

Carver (Columbus) at Central (Ala.)  
Clarke Central at Buford  
Dawson Co. at GAC  
George Walton at Strong Rock

2011 class.]

**\*Best team he's faced as player or coach:** "It would probably be that Shaw team that won it [2000] or the Tucker team that won it year before last [2008]. In 2005, we played Northside [Warner Robins], and they had a good football team too. But I'd say either Tucker or Shaw. Both had so many athletes. Tucker had the Davis kid [Jonathan Davis, now at Central Florida] that was so good, and a kid that went to LSU [Drayton Calhoun] and the kid who is a senior now [Super 11 LB Jonathan Vaughters]. That's always tough to beat. Same thing with Shaw, a lot of Division I-A kids."

**\*Best player he's ever seen:** "Probably Eric Berry at Creekside; him and Morgan Burnett [of North Clayton]. Those are the two most dominant we've seen on defense. Berry played quarterback and safety. Burnett played receiver. It seemed like every time there was a crucial situation, they made the play, whether on offense or defense. When you've got a kid who is a threat like that, a weapon who can take it the distance any time, you've got to know where he is."

## Rankings: GSWA/AP

### Close votes for No. 1 in AAA and A

Camden County, Northside of Warner Robins, Sandy Creek, Buford and Wilcox County are the No. 1-ranked teams in the first Georgia Sports Writers Association poll, released Tuesday by the Associated Press.

Only four points separated the No. 1 and No. 2 teams in AAA and A.

Sandy Creek, which won Class AAAA in 2009 and dropped to AAA this season, got five first-place votes and edged defending AAA champion Peach County, which got the other four first-place votes.

In Class A, defending champion Wilcox County got five first-place votes and beat out Charlton County, which dropped to A after a decade of averaging 12 victories in AA.

The GSWA/AP poll differed only a little from the GHSF Daily/AJC poll released Sunday. The GSWA/AP poll ranks Valdosta (instead of Roswell), Rockdale County, Kell and Southwest DeKalb (instead of Hiram, Apalachee and North Clayton), Eastside (instead of Ridgeland) and Twiggs County (instead of Greenville).

The polls had four of the same No. 1 teams. The GHSF Daily/AJC poll has Charlton County No. 1 in A.

#### Class AAAAA

1. Camden County (8) - 89
2. Lowndes (1) - 78
3. North Gwinnett - 66
4. Colquitt County - 57

#### Georgia Military at Monticello

Hardaway at Smiths Station (Ala.)  
Holy Innocents' at Decatur  
Jordan at Veterans  
Lee Co. at Monroe  
Long Co. at Bacon Co.  
Northside (Columbus) at Brookstone  
Pacelli at Columbus  
Pickens at West Hall

Shaw at McIntosh  
Social Circle at Morgan Co.  
Terrell Co. at Early Co.

#### Friday

Adairsville at Cass  
Apalachee at Archer  
Appling Co. at Jeff Davis  
Athens Christian at Jackson Co.  
Atkinson Co. at Brantley Co.  
Bainbridge at Americus-Sumter  
Beach at Richmond Hill  
Benedictine at Calvary Day  
Bradwell Institute at Liberty Co.  
Butler at Warren Co.  
Carrollton at Douglas Co.

#### Carver (Atlanta) at McNair

Central (Macon) at Dougherty  
Central Gwinnett at Duluth  
Clinch Co. at Berrien  
Crawford Co. at Taylor Co.  
Creekside at Westlake  
Creekview at Etowah  
Dade Co. at Ft. Payne (Ala.)  
Drew at Walker  
Evans at South Aiken (S.C.)  
First Presbyterian at Schley Co.  
Flowery Branch at South Forsyth  
Gaylesville (Ala.) at Coosa  
Greenville at Callaway  
Harlem at Aquinas  
Heard Co. at Westminster  
Houston Co. at Jones Co.  
Howard at Dooly Co.  
Lovejoy at Stephenson  
Manchester at South Paulding  
Marist at Centennial  
McNair at Carver (Atlanta)  
Metter at Johnson Co.  
Miller Co. at Marion Co.  
Mitchell Co. at Brooks Co.  
Model at Mount Zion (Carroll)  
Montgomery Co. at Telfair Co.  
Mount Pisgah at Mount Paran  
Murray Co. at North Murray  
North Cobb Christian at King's Ridge  
Oglethorpe Co. at Putnam Co.  
Rich. Acad. at Lakeside (Evans)  
River Ridge at Fellowship Christian  
Riverwood at Seminole Co.  
Screven Co. at South Effingham

#### Silverdale (Tenn.) at Gordon Lee

Southeast Bulloch at Bryan Co.  
Southwest (Macon) at Perry  
Towns Co. at Fannin Co.  
Tri-Cities at Dutchtown  
Trion at Chattooga

5. Newnan - 52
  6. Peachtree Ridge - 49
  7. McEachern - 35
  8. Stephenson - 30
  9. Grayson - 12
  10. Valdosta - 6
- Others receiving votes: Roswell 5, Lassiter 5, Etowah 4, South Gwinnett 4, Woodstock 1, Kennesaw Mountain 1, M.L. King. 1.

**Class AAAA**

1. Northside-Warner Robins (8) - 87
  2. Griffin - 79
  3. Clarke Central (1) - 67
  4. Tucker - 57
  5. Thomas County Central - 53
  6. Marist - 38
  7. Warner Robins - 33
  8. Rockdale County - 29
  9. Kell - 10
  10. Southwest DeKalb - 9
- Others receiving votes: Hiram 8, Apalachee 8, North Clayton 4, Sprayberry 3, Pope 3, Lakeside-Evans 3, Loganville 2, Brunswick 1, Flowery Branch 1.

**Class AAA**

1. Sandy Creek (5) - 86
  2. Peach County (4) - 82
  3. Cairo - 61
  4. Washington County - 51
  - (tie) St. Pius - 51
  6. Westside-Macon - 48
  7. Gainesville - 30
  8. Baldwin - 25
  9. Eastside - 24
  10. North Hall - 15
- Others receiving votes: Carrollton 5, Ridgeland 4, Grady 4, LaGrange 3, Burke County 3, Central-Carrollton 2, White County 1.

**Class AA**

1. Buford (7) - 88
  2. Carver-Columbus (2) - 71
  3. Calhoun - 70
  4. Fitzgerald - 65
  5. Lovett - 47
  6. Dublin - 34
  7. Westminster - 27
  8. Thomasville - 25
  9. Hart County - 23
  10. Jefferson County - 15
- Others receiving votes: Cook 11, Callaway 5, Swainsboro 5, Jefferson 5, Brooks County 3, Pepperell 1.

**Class A**

1. Wilcox County (5) - 84
2. Charlton County (4) - 80

Walnut Grove at Loganville  
**Warner Robins at Crisp Co.**  
 Washington-Wilkes at Elbert Co.  
 West Forsyth at Parkview  
 Wheeler Co. at Claxton  
 Wilkinson Co. at Baldwin  
 Windsor Forest at Sav. Country Day

**Saturday**  
 Prince Ave. Christian at Rabun Co.

**Regular Season**

Here are the regular-season games that will get the season under way this week:

**Friday**  
 Baconton Carter at Pelham  
 Central (Carrollton) at Bremen  
 Coffee at Brunswick  
 Cook at Colquitt Co.  
 Greenbrier at Grovetown  
 Groves vs. Savannah (Memorial)  
 Hancock Central at Greene Co.  
 Luella at Villa Rica  
 Jackson (Atl.) at Stone Mtn. (AV)  
 Norcross at Dacula  
 North Forsyth at Cherokee  
 Riverside Mil. at Pinecrest Academy  
 South Gwinnett at Lowndes  
 Tift County at Fitzgerald  
 Twiggs County at Northeast

**Saturday**  
 \*Brookwood vs. Walton  
 \*Grayson vs. Kell  
 \*Lassiter vs. North Gwinnett  
 \*McEachern vs. Peachtree Ridge  
 Thomasville at Lovett  
 Cross Keys at Our Lady of Mercy

\*Kell Classic, Georgia Dome

3. Wesleyan - 77
4. Lincoln County - 56
5. Clinch County - 51
6. Savannah Christian - 39
7. Emanuel County Institute - 33
8. Eagle's Landing Christian - 16
9. Twiggs County - 15
10. Bowdon - 14

Others receiving votes: Greenville 6, Johnson County 4, Holy Innocents' 4, Wilkinson County 4, Bremen 3, Darlington 3, Athens Academy 2, George Walton 2, Warren County 1, Whitefield Academy 1.

## In The News

### **Stephenson off to strong start with another recruiting class**

Stephenson, the DeKalb County school that set a record with 29 college signees in February, is out to beat that mark in 2011, and the project is off to a good start.

Eight Jaguars are committed. Only one other school, Tucker, has as many as three.

Stephenson assistant coach and recruiting director Corey Johnson says he hopes to send all 38 Stephenson seniors to college football programs.

"We've still got a long way to go," Johnson said. "My goal is to get all 38. The last 15 to 20, they're probably going to be Division II, NAIA kids, so I've already gotten in touch with all those schools and put their information out there."

After the third game, Johnson hopes to have highlight tapes for every senior.

Johnson says he advises players to accept scholarship offers as soon as they're comfortable with a school because they can be pulled later.

Johnson says he believes Stephenson's junior class will be the best yet.

"The 2012 class is going to be ridiculous," Johnson said. "That's where all the size on our team comes from. That class will have eight linemen in it, all of them ranging from 6-3 to 6-5 and 280-plus pounds, so that class is going to be nice."

From the 2009 season, 29 of Stephenson's 32 seniors signed. One lacked grades. One chose to attend cosmetology school. One had his scholarship offer pulled over a legal matter.

Stephenson's commitments:

DB David Stevenson, Connecticut

DB Jared Boyd, Duke

QB Jordan Tarver, Kent State

LB Regis Ball, Memphis

WR Cey-Ron Willingham, Middle Tennessee

RB Willie Davis, South Florida

OL Tarik Cook, Central Florida

PK Colin Anderson, Alabama-Birmingham

### **QB Smith made early impression on Troup's Flowers**

Quan Bray, the quarterback who led Callaway to the state quarterfinals last season, attracted a lot

of attention in the off-season with his transfer to county rival Troup.

As it turned out, though, first-year Troup coach Charles Flowers already had his quarterback, so Bray will be lining up in the backfield for the Tigers this season.

Kevin Eckleberry profiles Brannon Smith, the senior who hasn't played football since his freshman season but won the quarterback job early in the summer, in [this story](#) for the LaGrange Daily News.

### **Briefly ...**

The Columbus Ledger-Enquirer continues its series of previews of Columbus-area teams with [this story](#) about **Harris County**. ... The Augusta Chronicle profiles [Westside](#) in its previews of area schools. ... Alex Farrer examines the beginning of the Lynn Hunnicutt era at **Model** in [this story](#) for the Rome News-Tribune. ... Clint Thompson looks ahead to Saturday's regular-season opener between **Thomasville** and **Lovett** for [this story](#) in the Thomasville Times-Enterprise.

## **Classifieds**

### **Touchdown Club of Atlanta meets on Mondays throughout season**

The Touchdown Club of Atlanta is kicking off its 73rd season with an outstanding lineup of guest speakers that includes Mark Richt, Paul Johnson, Bill Curry, Bobby Bowden, Johnny Majors, Vince Dooley and more. Every Monday for 11 weeks we meet at noon at Fox Sports Grill at Atlantic Station and will honor high school teams, coaches and players. Fox 5 TV sportscasters are emcees, and 680 The Fan's "Chuck and Chernoff" show will be on site. For more information, visit [www.touchdownclubofatlanta.com](http://www.touchdownclubofatlanta.com).

### **Jackson County selling head set system, Football Gauntlet**

Jackson County High School is selling a Football Gauntlet from World Sporting Goods with eight arms and a sled, oversized dummy at the end. One year old and in great condition. \$2,000 or best offer. For more information, contact Jackson County head coach Billy Kirk at [ftballcoach48@hotmail.com](mailto:ftballcoach48@hotmail.com) or 706-387-7305.

### **Score Atlanta looking for TV, Web and writing interns**

Sports marketing company Score Atlanta, which is working closely with Georgia Public Broadcasting as well as doing work for other media companies around the state, will be producing a large amount of high school content this season for TV, Web, print and social Web-based media. Interns looking for hands-on experience in such areas as camera work, working on a weekly high school show and live games on TV and the Web, or writing sports as well as marketing it and selling it should e-mail [info@scoreatl.com](mailto:info@scoreatl.com) or call the Score offices at 404-256-1572 and ask for managing editor Stephen Black.

*Please send information for the Classifieds to [GHSFdaily@bellsouth.net](mailto:GHSFdaily@bellsouth.net).*

## **Advertise With GHSF Daily**

If you are interested in advertising in this newsletter, call Score Atlanta general manager Bob Houghton at 404-256-1572 or e-mail him at [bhoughton@scoreatl.com](mailto:bhoughton@scoreatl.com). Score Atlanta is a full-service sports marketing company, focusing on high school sports with specialties in TV, radio, print, Web, Internet Television and event marketing. For more information on advertising in the GHFS Daily, download the [sales sheet](#). For more information on Score Atlanta, go to [scoreatl.com](http://scoreatl.com) or call 404-256-1572.

## **About Us**

Georgia High School Football Daily is a free e-mail newsletter produced by Todd Holcomb and Chip Saye. Holcomb is a former lead high school football writer for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and co-founder and primary researcher behind the Georgia High School Football Historians Association. Saye is a 25-year veteran of the newspaper industry who has covered high school sports for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Athens Banner-Herald, Anderson (S.C.) Independent-Mail and Gwinnett Daily News.

