



Road to...  
**The Dome**  
2009  
**FOOTBALL**

**GHSA 2009 FOOTBALL SEMIFINALS**  
**DECEMBER 4-5**



# THE DOME IS NEXT

**SCORE**
**ALEX EWALT**


## Month of December means state's best football teams have risen to the top

It's that time of year again, when in each classification we truly find out who the top teams in the state are.

Last year, the semifinals were moved to home sites for the first time since 1995, when the likes of Southwest DeKalb, Josey, Elbert County and Lincoln County were on their way to state titles in the four classifications. Through last year, Semifinal Weekend caught the attention of Georgia high school football fans, as 20 teams graced the Dome's artificial turf in two days.

Now, the fourth round of the playoffs will be held at the schools for the second year in a row.

The 20 teams that remain in the 2009 GHSA State Playoffs have all proven their met-

tle, though some of them have come from further back than others to get to where they are now. Exactly seven of the 20 semifinal teams were not ranked in the Georgia High School Football Daily Top-10 poll (Todd Holcomb/Chip Saye) going into the postseason: Colquitt County (Class AAAAA), Rockdale County and Clarke Central (AAAA), Flowery Branch and Eastside (AAA), and Clinch County and Darlington (A).

Among the semifinalists, there are two defending champions still playing, Buford and Camden County; and two of the other teams still alive (Flowery Branch and Calhoun) were finals participants from last season.

### GREAT STORYLINES ...

Just like any season, we can look back at this point and relive the compelling stories from around the state, even if they don't involve teams that are still in the running for a state title.

Lassiter's two-year turnaround from perennial loser to state contender turned heads, as did the Trojans' matchup with Colquitt County in the quarterfinals, where Colquitt head coach Rush Propst met his former offensive coordinator in Chip Lindsey. Grayson received top-10 billing throughout the season from many of the national rankings services, even rising to as high as No. 2 according to RivalsHigh. Meadowcreek, usually the forgotten Gwinnett school, got attention for being featured in a New York Times article on the unique situation of the struggling program. The nation was introduced to Georgia football with prime-time ESPN games between Camden County and Hoover, Ala., and Stephenson and M.L. King. And to remind us of the business aspect of high school football, Valdosta head coach Rick Tomberlin, despite a playoff berth, was let go by the school board after it decided to forgo a scheduled vote on the issue.

Dalton completed the program's 50th consecutive winning season, an incredible streak that is believed to be a national record. Avondale completed an impressive turnaround of its own, finishing 6-5 with a playoff berth, its first winning season and postseason appearance since 1989. Lovett defeated Buford on a last-second interception, breaking up an amazing 32-game winning streak by the Wolves. Tonight, both teams will be in action and looking to force a rematch against their region rival (the teams also met with the title on the line in 2007).

In perhaps the most poignant and touching storyline of them all this season, Greenville head coach Jeremy Williams coached perhaps his final

high school game two weeks ago in a second-round loss to Wilcox County. Williams, who suffers from the terminal illness ALS (or Lou Gehrig's disease), had led the Class A school to an 11-0 record before the playoff defeat. Wilcox fans in attendance that night surely were witness to all that's right about high school athletics, as Williams embraced his players one by one after the game.

### TAKING A LOOK BACK ...

The playoffs have already produced some great games and exciting endings, and a number of our semifinalists emerged from the pack after some nail-biting finishes.

Camden County survived Lowndes 10-7 for a huge win at Chris Gilman Stadium in the second round. The Class AAAAA state championship has gone through one of these two schools for five out of the last six seasons.

Colquitt County survived a scare in Round 2 as well, but eked out a 22-21 victory over Stephenson of DeKalb County thanks in part to three interceptions and two huge fourth-quarter kickoff returns by Quin Roberson. Newnan got a blocked field goal from Alec Ogletree to take a 9-7 win over Grayson in the quarters, and Northside got a 32-yarder from Devon Pike in overtime to put the Eagles over Peachtree Ridge, last season's runner-up.

Sandy Creek nipped Tucker, the defending AAAA champ, 17-14 in the second round, while Clarke Central took down perhaps the favorite in the class, Southwest DeKalb, 19-17.

Peach County went to overtime with St. Pius in the quarters but came out with a victory, and Flowery Branch pulled off an incredible 35-33 victory over 2007 champ Carver-Columbus on the road last week; the Falcons scored the last 14 points of the game.

Lovett went on the road to Folkston last weekend and outlasted Charlton County, 35-32, despite an incredible performance from Charlton QB/PR/KR Chris Milton.

Darlington played its closest game of the playoffs against Warren County in Round 1, holding on to a 16-14 victory after going up 16-0 to start the game. Savannah Christian sealed a 14-10 first-round victory over Irwin County with an interception with seven seconds left, and Wilcox County's Nick Marshall led the Patriots on a 61-yard scoring drive with five minutes left in the quarterfinal game against Wesleyan to take a 20-15 win.

*The photo of Connor Shaw of Flowery Branch is courtesy of Photographic Arts. Ewalt can be reached at aewalt@scoreatl.com.*

## BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

These semifinalists are no stranger to December football, as they all have prior GHSA state titles to their names:

<b>Camden County</b> 2003, 2008 (Jeff Herron)
<b>Colquitt County</b> 1994 (Jim Hughes)
<b>Northside-Warner Robins</b> 2006, 2007 (Conrad Nix)
<b>Clarke Central</b> 1977, 78, 85 (Billy Henderson)
<b>Griffin</b> 1978 (Lloyd Bohannon)
<b>Peach County</b> 2005, 2006 (Rance Gillespie)
<b>Buford</b> 1978 (Ed Cochran), 2001-03 (Dexter Wood), 2007, 2008 (Jess Simpson)
<b>Calhoun</b> 1952 (Lindy McGee)
<b>Fitzgerald</b> 1948 (Earl Wheby)
<b>Lovett</b> 1970 (Bill Conley)
<b>Clinch County</b> 1988, 1991 (Don Tison), 2002 (Cecil Barber), 2004 (Jim Dickerson)
<b>Darlington</b> 1998 (Jerry Sharp)


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# CLASS AAAAA SEMIFINALS PREVIEW


**BRIAN JONES**

## NEWNAN

OPPONENT	SCORE
LaGrange	Won 26-15
Chapel Hill	Won 41-0
Lovejoy	Won 34-0
Morrow	Won 47-0
Creekside	Won 34-6
Riverdale	Won 40-7
Westlake	Won 20-0
Pebblebrook	Won 26-0
Mundy's Mill	Won 42-7
East Coweta	Won 43-26
Valdosta	Won 28-9
M.L. King	Won 15-6
Grayson	Won 9-7

## NORTHSIDE- WARNER ROBINS

OPPONENT	SCORE
Perry	Won 42-10
Carver, Columbus	Won 21-12
Valdosta	Won 16-13
Houston County	Won 42-7
Lowndes	Won 10-7
Coffee	Won 35-3
Grovetown	Won 46-7
Tift County	Won 27-13
Warner Robins	Lost 20-21
Colquitt County	Won 20-17
Chapel Hill	Won 35-14
Union Grove	Won 21-10
Peachtree Ridge	Won 20-17

## NEWNAN VS. NORTHSIDE-WARNER ROBINS

Northside has been one of the best teams in the state for the past few years, winning two consecutive Class AAAAA titles in 2006 and 2007. The Eagles moved up to AAAAA in 2008, and reached the second round of the state playoffs, where they lost to Camden County. This year they have lost only one game, a defeat to bitter rival Warner Robins, and are coming off a thrilling 20-17 triple-overtime win against Peachtree Ridge in the second round. Newnan has been one of the most consistent teams in Georgia this decade, losing only three games in the last three seasons. The Cougars are coming off an emotional 9-7 win over Grayson.

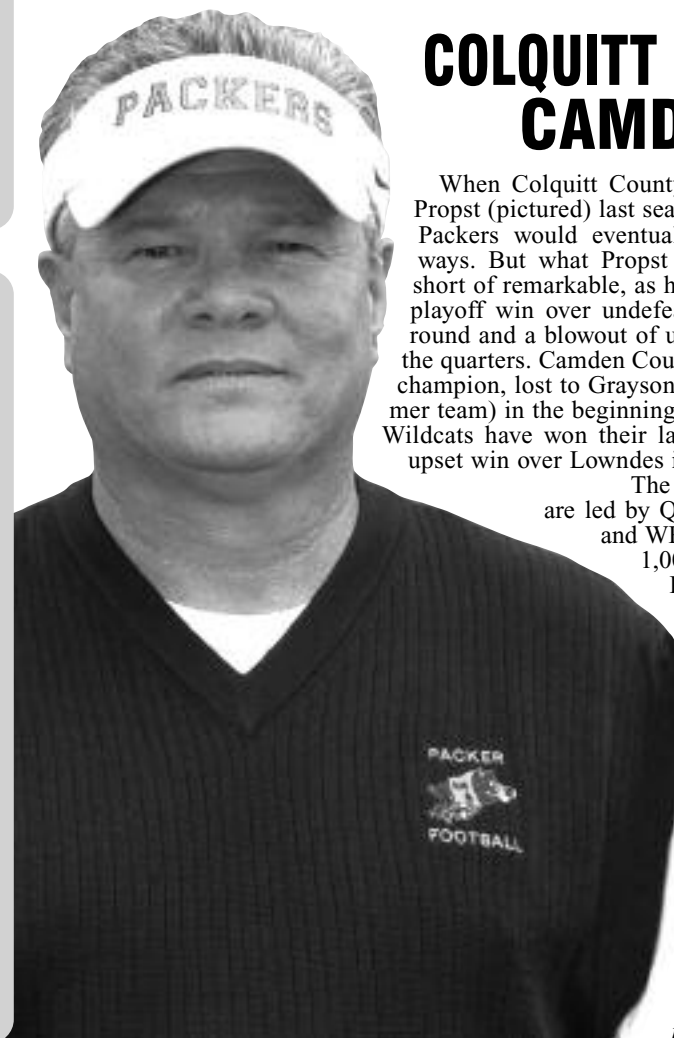
For the Eagles, two players to watch are QB Briar Van Brunt and RB Shaquille O'Neill. They have both accounted for nearly 2,000 yards and 25 touchdowns this season and can be dangerous if they get on a roll early in this game. But the Eagles will have their hands full with a dominating Newnan defense led by the Ogletree brothers, Alec and Alexander. Alec is considered the best safety in the country and came up with the blocked field goal against Grayson in the waning seconds to keep the Cougars' season alive. Alexander is a dominating linebacker on a defense that has not given up more than 17 points in a game all season.

## COLQUITT COUNTY VS. CAMDEN COUNTY

When Colquitt County brought in head coach Rush Propst (pictured) last season, the community figured the Packers would eventually get back to their winning ways. But what Propst has done this year is nothing short of remarkable, as he was able to lead Colquitt to a playoff win over undefeated Stephenson in the second round and a blowout of undefeated Lassiter last week in the quarters. Camden County, the reigning Class AAAAA champion, lost to Grayson and Hoover, Ala. (Propst's former team) in the beginning of the year. But since then, the Wildcats have won their last 10 games, including a 10-7 upset win over Lowndes in the second round.

The Packers run a spread offense and are led by QB Tyler Brown, RB Tevin King and WR Quin Roberson. King has over 1,000 yards rushing for the year and Roberson comes into the game with 19 touchdown catches. The Wildcats will look to a tough running game and a great defense, as they have pitched six shutouts this season. In the win against North Gwinnett, the Wildcats racked up 316 yards on the ground and only attempted two passes. Aundre Johnson, Ean Days and Darius Sullivan will be the three backs carrying the load on Friday against the Packers.

*Photo Courtesy of Colquitt County. By Brian Jones, who can be reached at [bjones@scoreatl.com](mailto:bjones@scoreatl.com).*



## COLQUITT

OPPONENT	SCORE
Randolph-Clay	Won 40-7
Thomasville	Won 34-19
Wayne County	Won 35-6
Lowndes	Lost 6-31
Coffee	Won 31-21
Valdosta	Won 14-7
Tift County	Won 28-10
Warner Robins	Won 17-0
Houston County	Won 35-10
Northside, Warner Robins	Lost 17-20
Westlake	Won 10-0
Stephenson	Won 22-21
Lassiter	Won 46-17

## CAMDEN

OPPONENT	SCORE
Grayson	Lost 10-14
First Coast, FL	Won 30-24
Hoover, AL	Lost 27-30
Windsor Forest	Won 39-6
Beach	Won 56-0
Groves	Won 76-0
Johnson, Savannah	Won 51-0
Jenkins	Won 50-0
Savannah	Won 41-0
Bradwell Institute	Won 56-9
Newton	Won 43-19
Lowndes	Won 10-7
North Gwinnett	Won 35-0

# CLASS AAAAAA ROSTERS



## CAMDEN COUNTY

Head Coach: Jeff Herron

No.	Name	Year	Pos.
1	Malcolm Maxwell	10	RB/DB
1	Jesse Lemke	10	SE/DB
2	Darius Sullivan	12	RB/DB
2	Casey Hodges	10	RB/DB
3	Adam Drury	11	QB/DB
4	Joel Ruiz	11	QB/DB
4	Shaquand Hamilton	10	RB/DB
5	Michael Hamilton	11	SE/DB
5	JJ Green	9	RB/DB
6	Albert Mendez	12	RB/LB
7	Alex Purvis	11	SE/DB
8	Sean Brown	10	RB/DB
9	Steven Murphy	12	QB/DB
9	Damien Butler	10	SE/DB
10	Jalen Simmons	11	QB/DB
11	Shaquan Brock	11	RB/DB
12	CJ Deboer	12	TE/DE
12	Brice Ramsey	9	QB/DB
13	Josh Walker	10	RB/DB
14	Robert Brown	10	RB/DB
15	Audre Johnson	12	RB/LB
16	Ryan Gregoire	12	QB/DB
17	Seth Breeding	11	QB/LB
17	Devin Fizer	12	RB/LB
18	Aaron Fisher	11	QB/DB
20	Nate Haymon	12	RB/DB
20	Shaquille Lewis	10	RB/LB
21	Glenn Mack	12	RB/LB
21	Terrence Robinson	10	RB/LB
22	Kevon McKenzie	10	RB/DB
23	Justin Woodard	11	RB/DB
24	DJ Williams-Reed	11	RB/DB
24	Travis Mikkil	10	RB/LB
25	Michael Showers	11	RB/DB
25	John Grigsby	10	RB/LB
26	Vishawn Williams	11	SE/DB
27	Alan Samsom	11	TE/LB
27	Brian Hetrick	10	TE/DB
28	Tyler DeKleine	10	RB/LB
29	Carrington Wright	11	RB/DB
29	Jonathon Jacobs	11	SE/DB
30	Kenny Hutchinson	11	RB/DB
30	Eric Sauerbei	10	SE/DB
31	Hakeim Hutchinson	10	RB/DB
32	Ean Days	12	RB/DB
33	DJ McNiel	11	RB/DB
34	Darrin Diaz	12	RB/LB
35	Tyler Livingston	12	QB/DB
36	Alex Carter	11	RB/LB
37	Kevin Steele	12	SE/LB
38	Willie Thacker	12	RB/LB
39	Zack Marx	12	SE/DB
40	Matt Jackson	12	TE/DE
41	Clinton Hamilton	11	TE/LB
42	Tyre Holzendorf	12	RB/LB
43	Allen Hopkins	10	RB/DB
44	Aundrayvious Walker	11	RB/LB
45	Hayden Boudreaux	11	RB/LB
46	Ryan Lapoint	11	RB/LB
47	Teondre Williams	11	SE/DB
48	Issac Newell	11	SE/DB
49	Kenneth Swallows	12	SE/DB
50	Fred Jones	11	OL/DL
50	Brendan Vega	10	OL/DL
50	Travon Clar	10	OL/DL
51	Chase Bahr	11	OL/DL
52	Jacob Nicholson	11	OL/DL
53	Justin Bradford	12	OL/DL
53	Tyler Williams	10	OL/DL
55	Tyler Dowling	10	OL/DL
56	Jeremiah Booth	12	OL/DL
56	Ryan Caez	12	OL/DL
57	Jeremiah Patterson	10	OL/LB
57	Kenny McGuire	10	OL/DL
58	Josh Plummer	10	OL/DL
58	Jared Elderkin	10	OL/DL
59	Johnny Keller	12	OL/DL
59	Vincent Hollerman	10	OL/DL
60	Casey Altiser	12	OL/DL
60	Nick Altiser	10	OL/DL
61	Donald Glover	11	OL/DL
61	James Gelsey	10	OL/DL
62	Michael Spragio	12	OL/DL
62	Corey Ingles	10	OL/DL
63	Matt Williams	11	OL/DL
64	Devlyn Cousin	10	OL/DL
65	Jacob Squires	11	OL/DL
65	Cody Crosby	10	OL/DL
66	Alejandro Vila	12	OL/DL
66	Donovan Victor	12	OL/DL
67	Timothy Martensen	10	OL/DL
67	Kaleb Wilburn	10	OL/DL
68	Justin Lee	11	OL/DL
68	Terrence Ervin	10	OL/DL
69	Josh Elderkin	12	OL/LB
70	Tyler Peeples	11	OL/DL
71	Elijah Vonbehren	11	OL/DL
72	Joseph Shusko	12	OL/DL
72	Justin Staines	10	OL/DL
73	Robert Gabriel	12	OL/DL
74	Ethan Vonbehren	11	OL/DL
75	Daniel Shusko	12	OL/DL
75	Brendan Taylor	10	OL/DL

76	Thomas Martin	12	OL/DL
77	Luke Mercier	12	OL/DL
78	Brad Arbo	11	OL/DL
79	Adam Ashcraft	11	OL/DL
80	Greg Adams	11	TE/DE
81	Zach Griffis	12	TE/LB
82	Dalton Drury	11	SE/DB
82	Cole McCahan	10	TE/DL
83	Jarrett Kitchen	11	SE/DB
83	Michael Wald	10	TE/DE
85	Deja Dotson	11	SE/DB
85	Clayton Latos	11	TE/DE
86	Deondre McRea	11	SE/DB
86	Stephen Vanzant	10	SE/DB
87	Bryce Sweeney	11	TE/DE
88	Devonte Williams	12	SE/DB
89	Alex Williams	11	SE/DB
90	Derrick Saulsberry	12	TE/DE
91	Dakota Dir	11	SE/DB
92	Jordan Scott	11	SE/DB
93	Kasey Farmer	10	SE/DB
94	Jordan Rieling	10	K/P
95	Kajavis Hill	11	RB/LB
96	Cameron Bennett	10	K/P
97	Matt Ehasz	11	K/P
98	Keith Pecko	10	TE/DE

## COLQUITT COUNTY

Head Coach: Rush Propst

No.	Name	Year	Pos.
1	Octavius Little	11	WR
2	Trevious Cooper	10	WR
3	Tyler Brown	11	QB
4	Quin Roberson	12	QB
5	Willie McCrary	12	LB
7	Derrell Ward	12	DB
8	William McCrary	12	WR
9	Darius Love	11	WR
10	Davis Durham	12	DB
11	Blake Stamps	11	WR
12	Alex Littleton	10	QB
13	Dontavis Avery	10	DB
14	Tre DeBruce	11	DB
15	David Tyndall	11	K
16	Payne Newsome	11	DB
17	Jeremy Downs	12	DB
18	Amel Magwood	12	DB
19	Stephen Moore	11	LB
20	Edarius Davis	10	DB
21	Tyler Dismuke	12	DB
22	Tevin King	11	RB
23	D'amonite Ridley	11	WR
24	Matthew Sailer	10	RB
25	Stacey Blackwell	10	DB
26	Vann Pitts	10	RB
27	Blake Segers	10	DB
28	Quon Jones	10	RB
29	Gary Thomas	11	LB
30	Alec Daniels	10	WR
31	Dehryan Arnold	11	WR
32	Rashawn Hunt	11	DL
33	Devin Hadley	10	RB
34	Hakeem Peterson	12	RB
35	Richard Kinsey	11	DB
36	Nyneson Jedy	12	DL
37	Jamal Davis	12	LB
38	Jeremy Bell	11	LS
39	Dondray Copeland	10	LB
40	Austin Harrell	10	LB
41	Ryan Ward	12	LB
42	Anthony Brumbley	10	DB
43	Damien Bentley	11	RB
44	Quan Daniels	11	DL
45	Tyrell Wright	12	DL
46	Ashley Mead	12	LS
47	Trey Scott	10	DB
48	Johnita Harris	10	WR
49	Ronnie Caldwell	11	DB
50	Garrett Brewer	11	OL
51	Ridge Underwood	10	LB
52	Daquan Nelson	10	LB
53	Dillon Underwood	12	LB
54	Tommy Marshall	11	OL
55	Brett Smith	10	DL
56	Audrick Ponder	12	DB
57	Emory Wheeler	12	LB
58	James Weathers	12	LB
59	Kris Bivins	10	OL
60	John Grobe	10	OL
61	Latrikeus Turner	10	DL
62	Matt Henderson	11	LB
62	Shelby Wilkes	9	QB
63	Xzavier Ward	10	OL
64	Alexander Murphy	10	OL
65	John Gray	9	LB
68	Bryce Giddens	10	OL
69	Zack Payne	10	DL
70	Cody Jordan	11	OL
72	Trey Rhyme	11	OL
74	Whit Benton	12	OL
75	Traivian Herring	10	DL
76	Samuel Mobley	10	OL
77	Kevin Edwards	10	OL
78	Chris Walsh	12	OL
79	Sean Richardson	10	OL
80	Ty Flournoy-smith	10	WR

81	Stephen Brown	11	WR
83	Travis Harris	12	WR
84	Hayden Kudela	11	WR
85	Jeffrey Worthy	11	WR
86	Fred Phillips	10	WR
87	Jacob Propst	12	WR
88	Tommy Hudson	11	WR
89	Karmirise Grant	10	WR
90	Wayne Jackson	10	DL
91	Christian Smith	10	DL
92	Robert Fuller	12	DL
93	Cameron Erving	12	DL
94	Zack Cannon	11	DL
95	Octavius Jackson	9	DL
96	Tra Wheeler	10	DL
97	Cameron Fuller	11	DL
98	Shain Nowland	10	WR

## NEWNAN

Head Coach: Mike McDonald

No.	Name	Year	Pos.
1	Lendell Arnold	11	QB/WR/DB
2	Thad Johnson	11	WR
3	Charcus Holloway	10	WR/DB
4	Jalen Bolton	10	WR/DB
5	Cody Darracott	10	WR/DB
6	Joseph Crawford	12	WR/DB
7	Alberry Nelson	11	TE/ILB
8	Zach Farmer	12	QB
9	Nick Evans	10	QB
10	Jamal Ransby	12	WR/DB
11	Frankie Miller	11	WR/DB
12	Weston Yeager	10	QB
13	Jay Hill	10	WR/DB
14	Jake Oldham	11	P/K
15	Cameron Rosser	12	OL/ILB
16	Charlie Johnson	11	WR/DB
17	Patrick McAlpin	10	P/K
18	Tito Avalo	10	QB
19	Cantrill Dix	12	TE/DB
20	LaDarian Bridges	10	WR/DB
21	Shaquille Warner	11	WR/DB
23	Rod Chaney	11	WR/DB
24	Chris Leazier	10	RB/DB
25	Andrew Anderson	10	TE/ILB
26	Danny Freeman	12	LB
27	Jamon Langford	11	WR/DB
28	Nick Hill	12	RB/OLB
29	Deion Poythress	11	WR/DB
30	Pierre Gates	10	RB/DB
31	Anthony Cruver	12	RB/OLB
32	Trevor Tanner	12	RB/OLB
33	Alexander Ogletree	12	B/ILB
34	Anthony Terrell	10	RB/ILB
35	Leon Richardson	10	WR/DB
36	Denzel Smith	11	RB/OLB
37	Quan Reeves	12	TE/DB
38	Austin Davis	10	RB/OLB
39	Alec Ogletree	12	WR/DB
40	Zack Singletary	11	FB/ILB
41	Delunta Sinkfield	11	DB
42	Bryant Ball	10	RB/OLB
43	Nick Cameron	10	TE/ILB
44	Justin Gates	10	FB/OLB
45	Christopher Robinson	11	RB/OLB
46	Marcus Tenney	10	RB/DB
48	Austin Smith	11	LB
49	Aaron Head	12	WR/DB
50	Matt Ireland	10	ILB
51	Adam Strakose	12	RB/ILB
52	Jimmie Reid	10	OL/DB
53	Miles Volkmer	11	OL/DL
54	O.D. Pittman	11	OL/DL
55	Adam Lanyi	10	OL/DL
56	Ron Wroble	11	OL/DL
57	Jordan Cody	12	OL/DL
58	Kenny Warren	11	OL/DL
59	Joshua Phillips	12	OL/ILB
60	Heath Lowry	11	OL/DL
61	Troy Owens	10	OL/DL
62	Spencer Whitehead	11	OL/DL
63	Daniel Vickery	10	OL/DL
64	Mason Brantley	10	OL/DL
65	Dillon Youngblood	12	OL/DL
66	Alex Farmer	11	OL/DL
67	Shaugh Henry	11	OL/DL
68	Chris Beno	11	OL/DL
69	Tyre Bridges	10	OL/DL
70	Brock Dorman	10	OL/ILB
71	Diante Peek	10	OL/DL
72	Robert Hill	12	OL/DL
73	Jamal Carlisle	9	QB
74	Casey Wood	12	OL/DL
75	Ontario Brewer	11	OL/DL
76	Paul Hollins	11	OL/DL
77	David Rowe	12	OL/DL
78	Frederick Bulter	12	OL/DL
79	Justin McLendon	10	OL/DL
80	Randale McGruder	10	OL/DL
81	Chuck Dancy	10	WR/DB
82	Austin Green	11	OL/DL
83	Alex Petch	10	TE/DB
84	Chip Schiomer	12	TE/ILB
85	Hakeem Wynn	11	TE/ILB
86	Denzel Cameron	10	WR/OLB
87	Tyler Smith	12	WR/DB


88	Diamond Leslie	10	OL/DL
89	Antonio Benton	10	WR/DB
90	Joel Herring	11	DL
91	Latravious James	11	DL
92	Torez Taggart	12	OL/DL
93	Nicholas Wood	10	OL/DL
95	Aundre Morgan	10	OL/DL
96	Cole Manos	11	OL/DL
97	Rickey Richards	10	RB/DB
98	Chris Teagle	10	OL/DL
99	J.R. Cameron	11	TE/DB

## NORTHSIDE

Head Coach: Conrad Nix

No.	Name	Year	Pos.
3	Renis Perry	12	RB
4	Dan Masteller	11	QB
5	Travis Boyd	12	REC
6	Shaquille O'Neill	11	RB
7	Brandon Brown	12	DB
8	Chris Vickers	11	REC
9	Phillip Jones	12	LB
10	Quin Greene	12	REC
11	Perry Weaver	11	REC
12	Brison Williams	12	DB
13	Briar Van Brunt	11	QB
14	Zeddrick Scott	12	QB
15	Andre Smith	10	REC
16	D.J. White		

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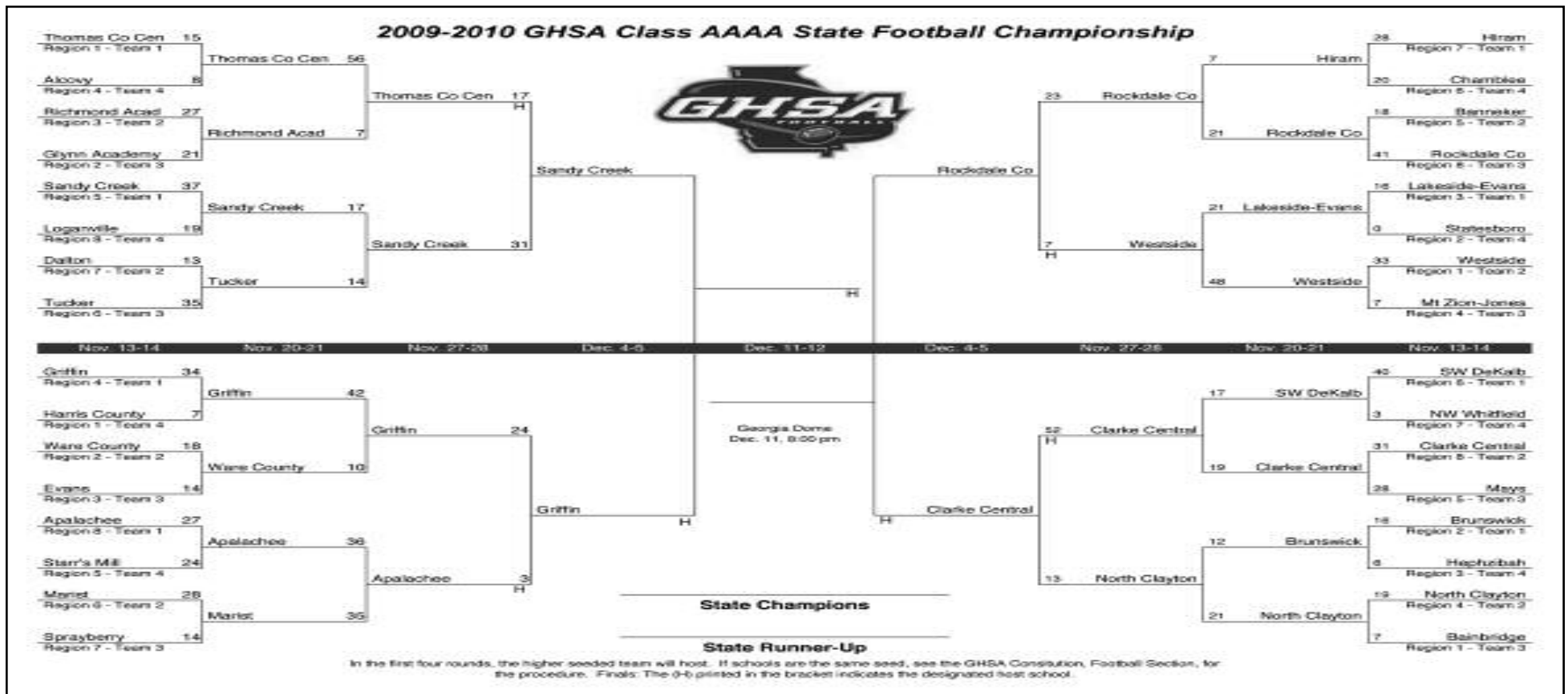
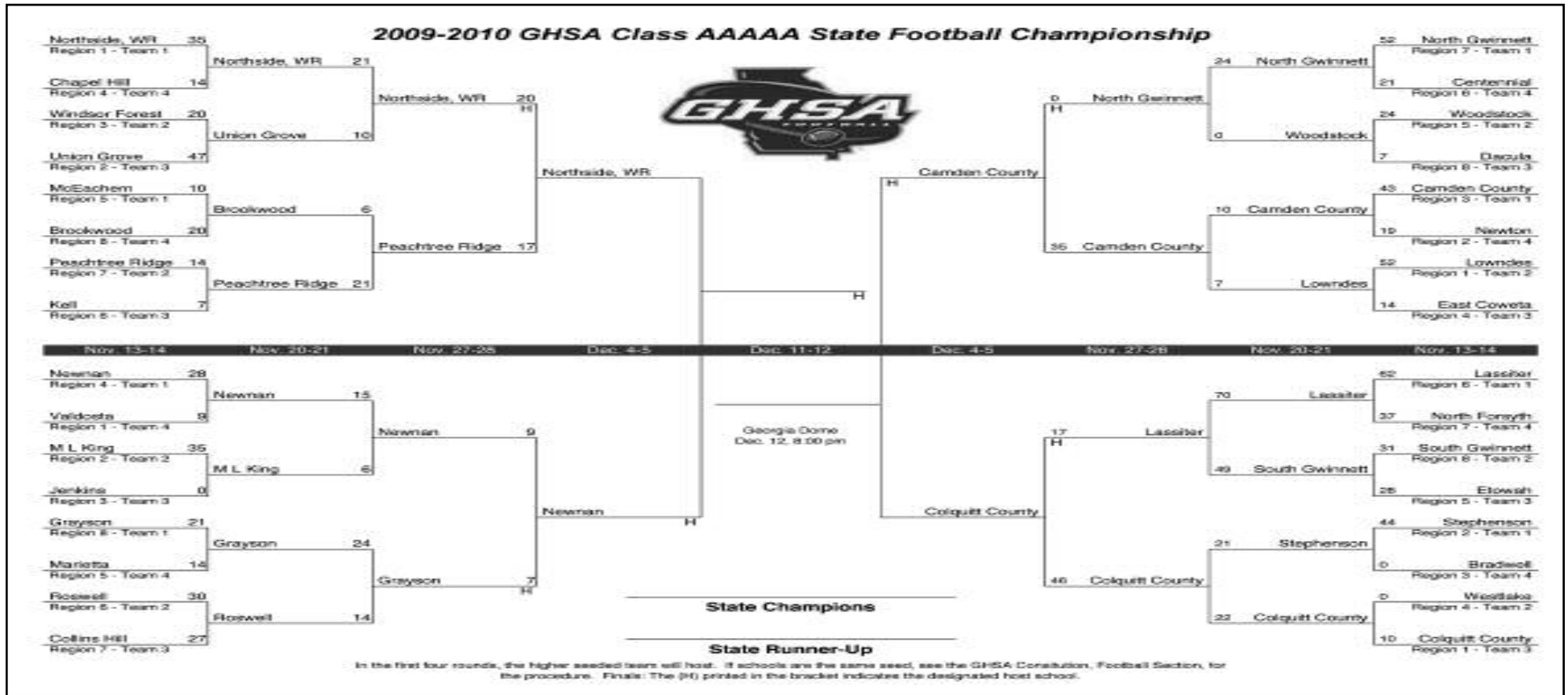
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# CLASS AAAA SEMIFINALS PREVIEW



JOSH BAGRIANSKY

## CLARKE CENTRAL

OPPONENT	SCORE
Loganville	Won 20-15
Monroe Area	Won 21-7
Habersham Central	Won 23-7
Apalachee	Lost 7-21
Heritage, Conyers	Won 14-10
Rockdale County	Lost 23-26, (OT)
Salem	Won 23-20
Cedar Shoals	Won 14-7
Winder-Barrow	Won 56-12
Madison County	Won 31-15
Mays	Won 31-28
Southwest DeKalb	Won 19-17
North Clayton	Won 52-13

## ROCKDALE COUNTY

OPPONENT	SCORE
Madison County	Won 28-6
Salem	Lost 14-21
Heritage, Conyers	Lost 10-14
Apalachee	Lost 14-20
Clarke Central	Won 26-23, (OT)
Cedar Shoals	Won 14-0
Winder-Barrow	Won 40-14
Habersham Central	Won 34-14
Loganville	Won 31-28
Monroe Area	Won 18-15
Banneker	Won 41-18
Hiram	Won 21-7
Westside, Macon	Won 23-7

## CLARKE CENTRAL VS. ROCKDALE COUNTY

The Class AAAA playoffs have been full of surprises, but none have been bigger than the emergence of Rockdale County and Clarke Central. The Region 8 opponents shocked everyone by getting this far, and will face off Friday. The Bulldogs of Rockdale County went 5-5 last year in Mike Etheridge's first year at the helm, which was viewed as great progress for the once-dormant program. This year, they started 1-3 before rattling off 10 straight wins, including playoff victories over Banneker, previously undefeated Hiram, and heavily-favored Westside-Macon. Tavaris Williams is a dangerous threat out of the backfield, and scored a vital 18-yard touchdown last week. Rashawn Binns, Kyle Tippins and quarterback Isiah Gresham complete a strong running attack. Binns is also a key cog on a defense that held Westside's star running back Robert Brown to 69 yards.

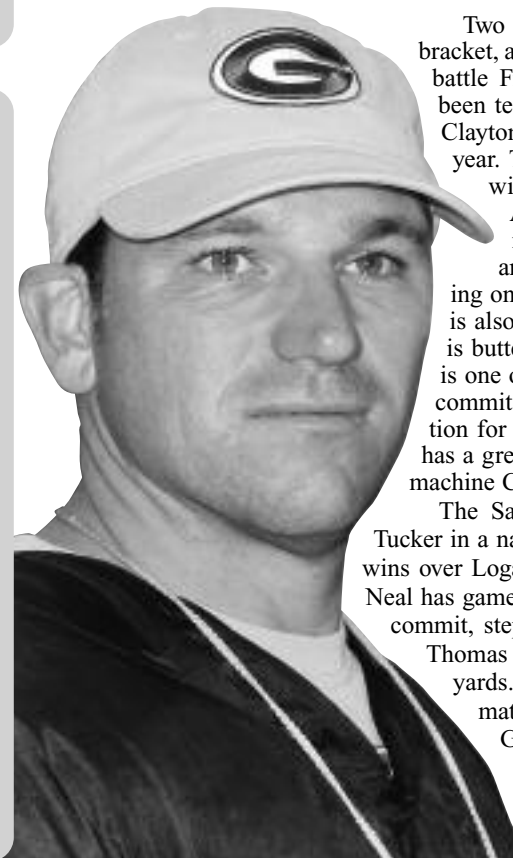
Meanwhile, Clarke Central turned heads by beating No. 2 Southwest DeKalb in the second round before beating North Clayton last week. QB Martay Mattox has emerged as one of the better signal callers in Georgia, and sophomore Quenshaun Watson is a serious big-play threat on the ground. Meanwhile, senior WR Dimitri Holmes is a bona fide playmaker who caught two touchdowns in the quarterfinal victory. The defense is no slouch either, allowing over 20 points just three times all year. Linebackers Devonte Derricote and Jordan Pierce are first and second on the team in tackles.

## GRIFFIN VS. SANDY CREEK

Two favorites made it through on the left side of the bracket, as region champs Griffin and Sandy Creek will do battle Friday night. At 13-0, No. 1 Griffin has hardly been tested all season, with a 12-point win over North Clayton being the Bears' smallest margin of victory all year. They also eased to victory in the playoffs with wins over Harris County, Ware County and Apalachee. QB Marcus Waller is efficient running or passing the ball, and D.J. Morgan is among several solid options at running back, scoring on a 34-yard scamper last week. Denarius Appling is also a good option at wideout. But the Bears' bread is buttered on the defensive side. DE Xzavier Dickson is one of the best players statewide. The 2011 Alabama commit made a big play last week, returning an interception for a touchdown to finish off Apalachee. GHS also has a great group at linebacker, including senior tackling machine Cartavious Woods.

The Sandy Creek Patriots beat defending champions Tucker in a nail-biter in the second round, but have cruised in wins over Loganville and Thomas County Central. RB Rajion Neal has game-breaking speed. The senior, a Mississippi State commit, stepped up big time in a 31-17 win over a strong Thomas County Central team last week, running for 169 yards. Ronnie Bell is also a stud at QB, making the matchup between Sandy Creek's offense and the Griffin defense one to watch.

*The photo of Griffin head coach Steve Devoursney is courtesy of John Sullivan/Griffin Daily News. By Josh Bagriansky, who can be reached at jbagriansky@scoreatl.com.*



## GRIFFIN

OPPONENT	SCORE
Dunwoody	Won 27-0
Spalding	Won 42-10
Ola	Won 48-7
Mt Zion, Jonesboro	Won 31-7
Forest Park	Won 50-0
North Clayton	Won 26-14
Stockbridge	Won 44-0
Jonesboro	Won 51-0
Dutchtown	Won 28-7
Alcovy	Won 36-3
Harris County	Won 34-7
Ware County	Won 42-10
Apalachee	Won 24-3

## SANDY CREEK

OPPONENT	SCORE
East Coweta	Lost 27-28
Shaw	Won 48-7
Alexander	Won 41-0
Osborne	Won 34-7
Whitewater	Won 43-6
McIntosh	Won 48-9
Fayette County	Won 31-7
Starr's Mill	Won 31-13
Northgate	Won 37-3
Banneker	Won 21-9
Loganville	Won 37-19
Tucker	Won 17-14
Thomas County Central	Won 31-17



# CLASS AAAA ROSTERS



## CLARKE CENTRAL

Head Coach: Leroy Ryals

No.	Name	Year	Pos.
1	Dontae Watkins	12	WR
2	Ty Simmons	11	DB
3	Derrick Smalls	12	DB
4	Chad Hackney	12	DE
5	Carlton Heard	11	QB
6	Dimitri Holmes	12	WR
7	Martay Mattox	11	QB
8	Torrey Gartrell	10	TE
9	Tony Glenn	12	DB
10	Terrell Bradshaw	11	WR
11	Ryan Faust	12	DE
12	Kadeem Combs	10	DB
13	Noah Welch	10	P/K
14	Herb Evans	11	DB
15	Andre Robinson	10	WR
16	Dawun Billups	10	DB
17	Adam Erickson	12	P/K
18	David Lilly	11	WR
19	Matthew Kloefer	10	P/K
20	Shaquille Moody	10	DB
21	Braxton Hudson	12	DB
22	Zuri Jewell	12	RB
23	Devante Appleby	10	RB
24	Quenshaun Watson	10	RB
25	Amir Williams	9	QB
26	Luke Bennett	9	QB
27	Marquez Williams	10	FB
28	Devonte Yearby	11	TE/DE
32	Kenji Reid	9	DB
33	Jalani Payne	9	RB
35	Jeremy Hughes	11	LB
36	Denzel Maxey	9	LB
42	Prince Hudson	11	OLB
43	Charles Straughter	10	LB
44	Rush Maxwell	11	OLB
45	Troy Yearby	10	OLB
48	Devante Derricotte	12	LB
49	Javion Hemphill	9	OLB
50	Trey Thomas	11	OL
51	Tariq Byrd	10	DL
52	Alex Harris	10	OL
54	Tucker Crumpton	9	OL
55	Daylen Pope	10	DE
56	James Martin	11	DL
57	Terrence J. Bradshaw	12	DL
58	Jamie Jackson	11	OL
61	Kelly Allen	10	OL
62	JR Blackmon	12	OL
64	Durmario Price	9	OL
66	Jarron Hutchins	12	OL
68	Deandre Harper	10	OL
70	Dashaun Edwards	9	OL
71	Alan Posey	11	OL
72	Malcolm McIntosh	10	OL
73	Tevorreius Bess	10	OL
75	Jeremy Johnson	12	OL
76	Maurice Chester	11	OL
77	Santiago Arias	11	OL
79	Demond Stovall	9	OL
80	Loran Posey	9	WR
81	Shamel Moody	11	WR
82	Rashad McDonald	10	WR
84	Cevon Freeman	10	TE
85	Tracey Arnold	9	WR
87	Jonah Crews	10	TE
89	Inigo DeArias	11	P/K
90	Devon Morrison	11	DL
93	Daronte Ellis	11	DL
95	Jordan Pierce	11	LB
96	Kendrick Duke	11	DL
99	Tevin Wilhite	12	DL

## ROCKDALE COUNTY

Head Coach: Michael Etheridge

No.	Name	Year	Pos.
01	Isaiah Gresham	12	QB
02	Kyle Tippins	12	RB
03	Michael Griffiths	12	WR
04	Rashawn Binns	12	LB

05	Darius Luca	12	
06	AJ Ward	12	
07	Michael Dawkins	11	
08	Chris Smith	12	
09	Nehemiah Bundrage	11	
10	Michael Phillips	12	
11	Devon Washington	12	
12	Kiante Allen	10	
13	Willie Smith	10	
14	Logan Sigwald	12	
15	Byron Lawrence	12	
16	Robert Smith	11	
17	Xavier Mollette	12	
18	Adric Samuels	11	
19	Brandon Harris	12	
20	Armon Cannon	10	
21	Dana Turner	10	
22	James Parker	10	
23	Joe Lewis	11	
24	Nick Coggins	10	
25	Tavaris Williams	12	
26	Lloyd Holder	10	
27	Billy Ruhle	11	
28	Deon Holder	10	
29	Akeem Sheets	12	
30	Donta London	11	
31	Neville Hewitt	11	
32	Jonathan Alexis	11	
33	Stephan Shelton	11	
34	Rashaud Ferrell	12	
35	Demarco Jackson	9	
36	Shawn McCalmon	10	
37	Aalim Dansby	10	
38	Harry Bain	10	
39	Tyree Newton	9	
40	Delvin Denham	11	
41	Denzel Morton	10	
42	Deldon Ardister	9	
43	Michael Rozier	9	
44	Francis Nelson	9	
45	Mitch Nolan	11	
46	Aubrey Brown	9	
47	Tony Lester	12	
48	James Baker	10	
49	Rashawn McKie	9	
50	Grady Jarrett	11	
51	Jacob Lewis	10	
52	Travis Frisbey	11	
53	Kyle Beyah	9	
54	DeAntoine Rome	10	
55	Allan Riley	9	
56	Jerry Mathis	11	
57	Daniel Homer	11	
58	Tevan Hamm	10	
59	Thomas Lowe	9	
60	Tarik Dudley	11	
61	Stacy Robinson	10	
62	David Bailey	9	
63	Trevor Williams	10	
64	Anthony Adams	10	
65	Conrad Blake	9	
66	Spencer Mathis	11	
67	Ronald Martin	12	
68	Shaheed Peterson	9	
69	Rashaud Murphy	9	
70	Shaq Vaughn	10	
71	Henry Anderson	9	
72	Akinyemi Olujobi	11	
73	Donnie Thomas	10	
74	Christian McCorley	11	
75	Toriano Crafton	9	
76	Amos Mobley	10	
77	Oshea Harris	10	
78	Taylor King	11	
79	Candler Hall	9	
80	Jamal Mercer	12	
81	Derrick Barbee	9	
82	James Tool	11	
83	Brent Johnson	10	
84	Larry Jones	10	
85	Demarcus Roberson	10	
86	Derrick Lockwood	11	
87	Brandon Story	12	

RB 88	Michael Anderson	10
DB 89	Kordairo Brown	11
WR 90	Joey Esobedo	9
WR 91	Demarco Jackson	12
SS 92	Anthony Banks	9
DB 93	Sheldon Neal	9
LB 94	Chris Griffin	10
SS 95	Cody Cain	12
QB 96	Davonte Walters	9
QB 97	Caleb Barrett	9
SS 98	Wachovia Holland	11
SS 99	Michael Gray	9
DL	Lance Freeny	9
WR	DeVaunte Carly	11
WR	Deland Felder	9
WR	Akshay Kumar	9
WR	Tremond Welch	11

## GRIFFIN

Head Coach: Steve Devoursney

No.	Name	Year
1	Aaron Mathis	11
2	Wantavious Washington	11
3	D.J. Morgan	12
4	Marcus Waller	12
5	Buck Hancock	12
6	Dontre Morris	12
7	Brandon Williamson	12
8	Octavious Blackmon	12
9	Nile Daniel	10
10	Ike Jones	12
11	Darius Harris	12
12	Tyrizes Turner	11
13	Denarius Appling	12
14	Corey Moore	11
15	Antonio Stuckman	12
16	Brandon Green	11
17	Teddy Wilder	12
18	Tyler Hamm	11
19	Jaylin Piercy	10
20	Corinthinn James	12
21	Alan Frazier	12
22	Stefon Harper	11
23	Eddrick Johnson	10
24	Chandler Worthy	11
25	Jahmad Clemons	11
26	Xavier Clark	10
28	Kent Yarbrough	10
29	Cord Hampton	10
30	Deonteri Dennis	11
31	Richard Wilder	9
32	Joseph Simmons	11
33	Randall Hardy	11
34	Artavious Parker	11
35	Jaylen James	10
36	Dontavia Lawrence	11
37	Xavier Lockett	9
38	Clemon Jackson	10
39	Quadre' Marshall	10
40	John Pope	9
59	Branden Serrano	11
42	Dakari Parker	9
44	Walter Forts	12
51	Donovan Estwick	12
47	Xzavier Dickson	11
48	Ladarian Underwood	9
49	Moses Mayes	9
50	Blake Durden	12
52	Cartavious Woods	12
53	Madison Jones	11
55	Sheldrecus Berry	11
56	Malcolm Berry	9
57	Billy Youngblood	9
58	Jake Hornsby	12
59	Jacob Hamby	12
60	Matthew Corley	11
61	Trey Mallett	9
62	Cardarius Watts	11
63	Lander McCall	9
64	Nick Bruce	11
66	Johnathon Archer	11
67	Bryson Jordan	11
68	Justin Willeby	12

WR 70	Nhigell Phillips	9	OL
WR 71	Johnquavious Hann	9	OL
WR 74	Chase Chapman	10	OL
RB 75	Demetrius Williams	12	OL
OL 76	Kenneth Ogbo	9	OL
WR 79	Chris Foster	9	OL
DL 80	Ervin Harris	10	WR
DL 83	Jamarcus Smith	9	
WR 84	Quincy Zellner	9	DE
RB 88	Brandon King	9	DB
RB 90	Dadrian Manuel	10	DL
WR 96	Michal Arrington	10	K
RB 97	Keith Henley	9	DL
RB 98	Jay Patel	12	DL
WR 99	Wilks Hope	9	K

## SANDY CREEK

Head Coach: Chip Walker

No.	Name	Year	Pos.
1	Devon Hughes	12	WR
3	Sean Rowe	12	DB
4	Alonzo Harmon	11	DB
5	Mike Spaulding	12	LB
7	Cameron Bush	11	DB
8	Zack Smith	12	WR
9	Patrick Alexander	12	WR
F/S	Lucky Charleston	12	RB
DE	Levon Alls	11	DB
DE	Bruce Dukes	11	DB
WR	BJ Trimble	11	WR
LB	Alex Chisum	11	WR
DB	Evan Moore	10	QB
TE	Tommy Harvey	11	WR
WR	Ronnie Bell	11	QB
S/S	Joe Walker	10	QB
LB	Derrick Alexander	11	RB
DB	Cedric Byrd	12	DB
DB	Lennie Foster	11	WR
QB	Nosakhene Griggs	11	DB
WR	Bradley Holmes	11	DB
LB	Rajion Neal	12	RB
DE	Lance Pugh	12	DE
LB	Zack Lopez	12	K
DB	Mike Hilton	10	DB
DB	Xavier Chisum	11	DB
DB	Matt Overstreet	11	LB
DL	Cody Green	12	LB
QB	Jamal Ware	10	DE
LB	Akeme Ubom	10	DB
WR	Bo Heard	11	RB
WR	Lance Dossie	12	DB
DL	Isaiah Adams	10	DB
RB	Isaiah Johnson	12	DB
TE	Derrick Richardson	11	RB
DB	Colby Cruver	10	DB
WR	Austin Bennett	12	RB
QB	Jonah Gibby	10	DE
DL	Clinard Stokes	12	LB
DB	Jerome Gaither	10	LB
OL	Chaz Johnston	11	DB
RB	Antonio White	10	DL
DL	Lacy Coleman	12	DE
DE	Alex Whitlock	10	DL
DE	Jonathon Caughman	12	DL
DB	Ricardo Fuentes	12	OL
DB	Charlie Zemko	12	OL
OL	Kenen Threatt	11	DL
LB	Brandon Jordan	11	OL
DL	Jake Nolin	10	OL
OL	Adam Massey	11	OL
OL	Will Adams	10	OL
OL	Chris Whitlock	10	DL
OL	Rene Johnson	12	OL
OL	Darius Tenney	11	WR
LB	Michael Powell	9	DB
OL	Tony Merriweather	10	WR
OL	Jamal Gilliam	10	WR
OL	Jarrett Davis	12	WR
OL	Stefan Austin	10	DL
OL	Domonique Francis	12	DL
OL	Gavin Rocker	11	DE

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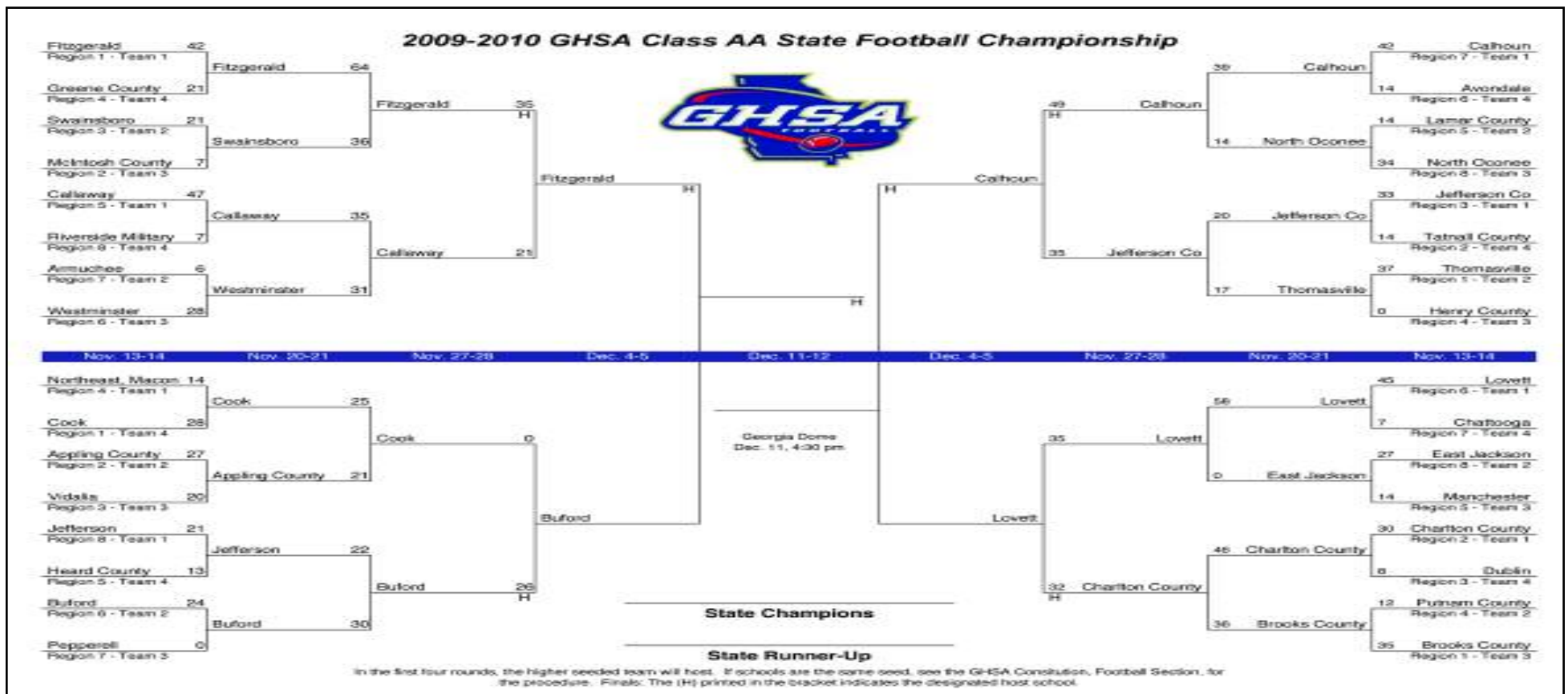
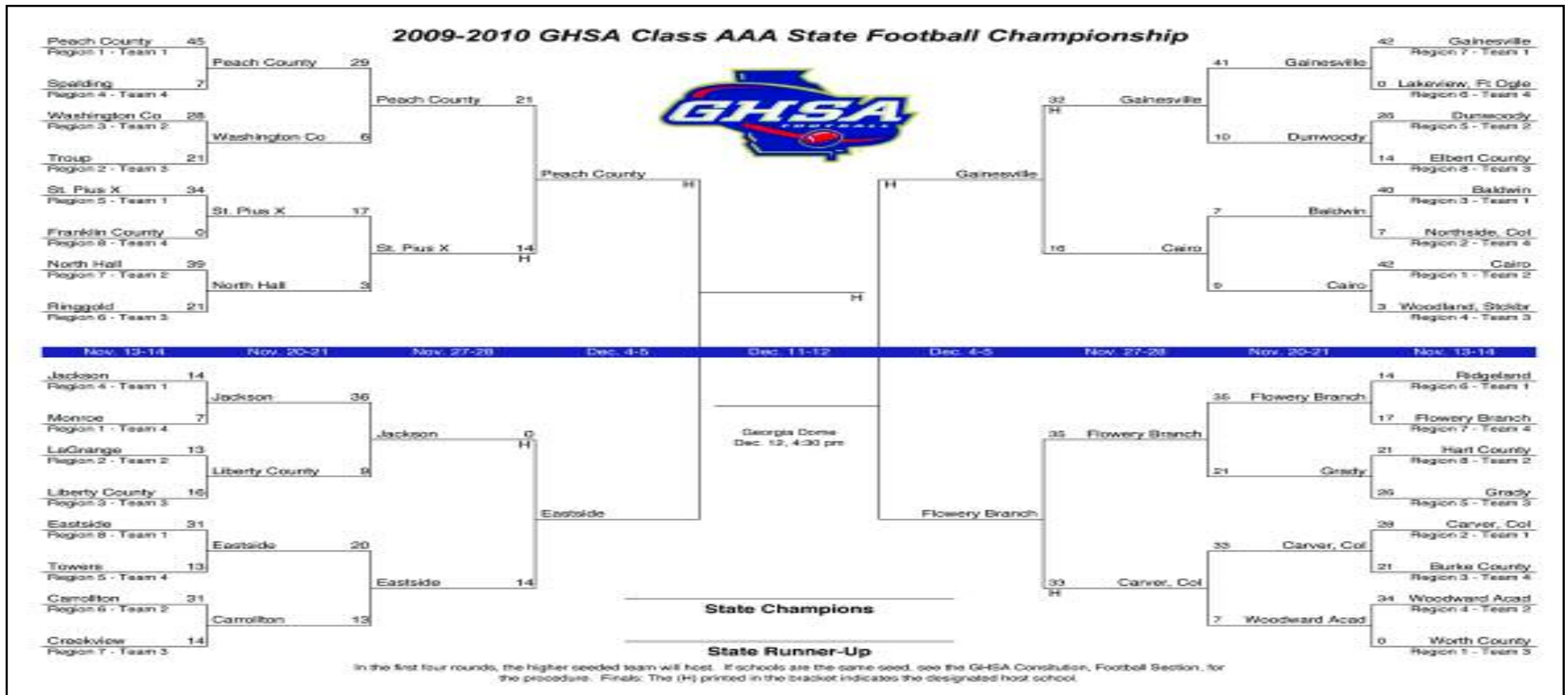
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# CLASS AAA SEMIFINALS PREVIEW


**FLETCHER PROCTOR**

## PEACH COUNTY

OPPONENT	SCORE
Macon County	Won 1-0
Rutland	Won 31-13
Baldwin	Won 17-7
Perry	Won 40-0
Monroe	Won 31-6
Cairo	Won 24-13
Westover	Won 42-6
Worth County	Won 36-13
Dougherty	Won 41-13
Crisp County	Won 35-7
Spalding	Won 45-7
Washington County	Won 29-6
St. Pius X	Won 21-14

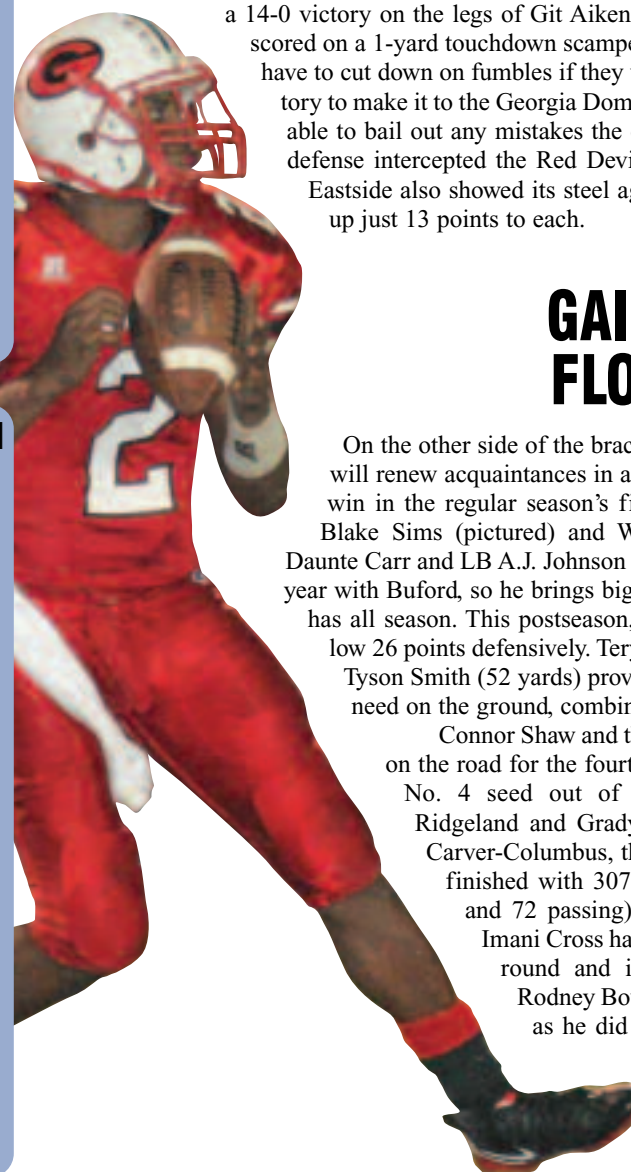
## EASTSIDE

OPPONENT	SCORE
Harris County	Won 15-0
Alcovy	Lost 0-3
Newton	Lost 17-32
Elbert County	Won 25-7
Stephens County	Won 30-27
Hart County	Won 48-20
Jackson County	Won 48-0
Oconee County	Won 44-0
Morgan County	Won 48-7
Franklin County	Won 22-20
Towers	Won 31-13
Carrollton	Won 20-13
Jackson	Won 14-0

## PEACH COUNTY VS. EASTSIDE

The Class AAA semifinals feature a regular-season rematch on one side of the bracket and a road warrior versus a former champion on the other side. The Peach County Trojans won back-to-back state championships in 2005 and 2006, but the team is only now in a position to take home another one after two above-average seasons. Patrick Taylor is back as quarterback after missing most of last season, and the senior has made up for lost time. Taylor scored a touchdown in overtime last week to help push the Trojans back to the semis, but he's had some help on the ground in the form of Travis Richmond. The running back had 127 yards last week in the 21-14 win over St. Pius X.

Meanwhile, the Eastside Eagles are on the road again just one week after traveling to Jackson to knock off the Region 4 champion Red Devils. The Eagles churned out a 14-0 victory on the legs of Git Aiken's 163 rushing yards. Greg Griffith scored on a 1-yard touchdown scamper but fumbled once. The Eagles will have to cut down on fumbles if they want to pull off yet another road victory to make it to the Georgia Dome. The defense, however, seems to be able to bail out any mistakes the offense makes. Against Jackson, the defense intercepted the Red Devils twice, including one for a score. Eastside also showed its steel against Carrollton and Towers, giving up just 13 points to each.



## GAINESVILLE VS. FLOWERY BRANCH

On the other side of the bracket, Gainesville and Flowery Branch will renew acquaintances in a rematch of the 49-17 Red Elephants win in the regular season's final week. Gainesville is led by QB Blake Sims (pictured) and WR Tai-ler Jones on offense and S Daunte Carr and LB A.J. Johnson on defense. Carr won a state title last year with Buford, so he brings big-game experience to Gainesville and has all season. This postseason, Gainesville has given up a playoff-low 26 points defensively. Teryan Rucker (181 yards vs. Cairo) and Tyson Smith (52 yards) provide all of the push the Red Elephants need on the ground, combined with the legs of Sims.

Connor Shaw and the Falcons of Flowery Branch will be on the road for the fourth week in a row. The Falcons were a No. 4 seed out of Region 7-AAA and knocked off Ridgeland and Grady before traveling south to take out Carver-Columbus, the champions out of Region 2. Shaw finished with 307 yards of total offense (235 rushing and 72 passing) and five TDs, four on the ground. Imani Cross had 110 yards rushing in the Elite Eight round and if Shaw wants to put the ball up, Rodney Boudreau is likely to come down with it, as he did on several fourth-down plays in the 35-33 win over the Tigers.

*Photo courtesy of Gainesville High School. By Fletcher Proctor, who can be reached at [fproctor@scoreatl.com](mailto:fproctor@scoreatl.com).*

## GAINESVILLE

OPPONENT	SCORE
Chestatee	Won 34-0
Franklin County	Won 41-0
White County	Won 42-20
North Hall	Won 55-12
West Hall	Won 56-13
West Forsyth	Won 34-0
East Hall	Won 63-0
Gilmer	Won 36-7
Johnson, Gainesville	Won 63-0
Flowery Branch	Won 49-17
Lakeview-Ft. Oglethorpe	Won 42-0
Dunwoody	Won 41-10
Cairo	Won 32-19

## FLOWERY BRANCH

OPPONENT	SCORE
Stephens County	Won 38-8
Lumpkin County	Won 35-7
Creekview	Lost 35-38
Chestatee	Won 48-12
Johnson, Gainesville	Won 31-17
West Hall	Won 62-14
North Hall	Lost 34-37
East Hall	Won 69-16
West Forsyth	Won 54-51
Gainesville	Lost 17-49
Ridgeland	Won 17-14
Grady	Won 35-21
Carver, Columbus	Won 35-33



# CLASS AA SEMIFINALS PREVIEW


**RAJESH GUPTA**

## FITZGERALD

OPPONENT	SCORE
Irwin County	Won 48-0
Hawkinsville	Won 62-0
Worth County	Won 49-0
Mitchell County	Won 54-12
Cook	Won 42-12
Berrien	Won 49-18
Early County	Won 48-0
Brooks County	Won 21-7
Albany	Won 48-6
Thomasville	Won 49-14
Greene County	Won 42-21
Swainsboro	Won 64-36
Callaway	Won 35-21

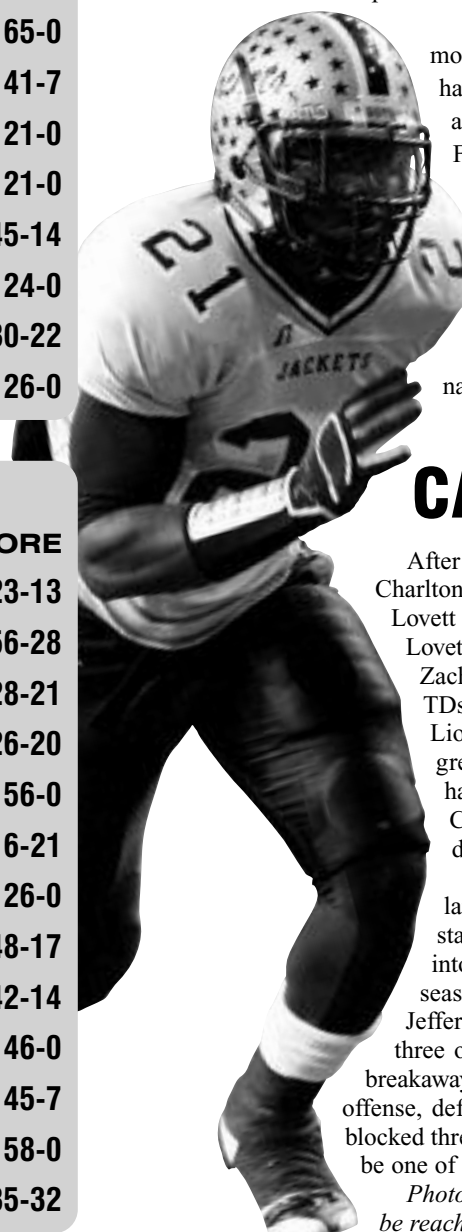
## BUFORD

OPPONENT	SCORE
Grovetown	Won 51-0
North Hall	Won 35-7
Lovett	Lost 21-28
Decatur	Won 28-0
Avondale	Won 41-0
Cross Keys	Won 65-0
Thomson	Won 41-7
Blessed Trinity	Won 21-0
Westminster	Won 21-0
Greater Atlanta Christian	Won 45-14
Pepperell	Won 24-0
Jefferson	Won 30-22
Cook	Won 26-0

## FITZGERALD VS. BUFORD

The obvious team with a target on its back is Buford, which is on its quest for a third straight state championship. Each team in this year's semifinal seems to have a history of playing each other in recent playoff games of seasons past, as the Wolves got the better of Fitzgerald in their semifinal matchup last year, 44-21. As of late, Buford has really found its stride, riding a running game that has featured as many as seven contributing backs in the playoffs. Senior back Jessel Curry is leading the way for this group with seven touchdowns in the postseason, scoring at least two per game.

In Fitzgerald, Buford will face a squad that is better and more experienced than it was last year. The Purple Hurricanes have been dominant this postseason, winning each contest by at least 14 points. Throughout the year and into the playoffs, Fitzgerald has demonstrated a strong command of its offense with Nic Williams, Trenton Pruitt, Latravious Stewart and Tevin Stewart-Gaulden, most of whom are multi-threat players out of the backfield and as receivers. The Purple Hurricanes' offense has a real knack for scoring and the ability to spread the ball around, much like Buford. Fitzgerald totaled 339 yards of total offense in its quarterfinal defeat over Callaway.



## CALHOUN

OPPONENT	SCORE
Dalton	Won 31-28
Ridgeland	Won 35-7
Cartersville	Won 38-10
Coosa	Won 47-16
Gordon Central	Won 56-14
Chattooga	Won 27-12
Sonoraville	Won 43-14
Dade County	Won 41-7
Adairsville	Won 34-0
Armuchee	Won 49-10
Avondale	Won 42-14
North Oconee	Won 39-14
Jefferson County	Won 49-35

## LOVETT

OPPONENT	SCORE
Woodward Academy	Won 23-13
Callaway	Won 56-28
Buford	Won 28-21
Towers	Won 26-20
Cross Keys	Won 56-0
Westminster	Lost 6-21
Blessed Trinity	Won 26-0
Greater Atlanta Christian	Won 48-17
Avondale	Won 42-14
Decatur	Won 46-0
Chattooga	Won 45-7
East Jackson	Won 58-0
Charlton County	Won 35-32

## CALHOUN VS. LOVETT

After two one-sided victories, Lovett faced an opponent in Charlton County that forced the Lions to score the football, and Lovett passed the test with a 35-32 win. With a strong defense, Lovett has several scoring threats on offense. Most notable are RB Zach Boden (five TDs in postseason), WR Max Williams (four TDs), and Taylor Mack (three TDs), who have each kept the Lions roaring on offense. Against Charlton, Lovett showed great resolve in coming back from an 18-14 deficit on second-half scores by Boden, Williams and Mack. QB Jonathan Carkhuff has thrown the ball well, adding two short touchdown runs against first-round opponent Chattooga.

Calhoun is loaded with playmakers, but one in particular stands out: WR/KR/PR Da'Rick Rogers (pictured). The stage will be familiar to the Yellow Jackets, as they stormed into the state finals last year only to fall to Buford. This postseason, Calhoun has averaged 43 points a game. Against Jefferson County, Rogers (216 yards receiving) scored four TDs, three of which were from 20 yards or more, including a 95-yard breakaway. Lately, the Jackets have been firing on all three cylinders: offense, defense, and special teams. Against North Oconee, Calhoun blocked three punts, and with Rogers returning kicks, special teams can be one of the Jackets' biggest weapons.

*Photo courtesy of Photographic Arts. By Rajesh Gupta, who can be reached at [rgupta@scoreatl.com](mailto:rgupta@scoreatl.com).*



# CLASS A SEMIFINALS PREVIEW



JOE DEIGHTON

## CLINCH COUNTY

OPPONENT	SCORE
Charlton County	Lost 0-40
Irwin County	Lost 7-14
Randolph-Clay	Won 26-15
Calhoun County	Won 40-0
Miller County	Lost 0-7
Bacon County	Won 33-6
Lanier County	Won 40-7
Atkinson County	Won 63-12
Pelham	Won 39-14
Miller County	Won 25-20
Marion County	Won 34-7
Emanuel County Institute	Won 39-28
Holy Innocents'	Won 35-27

## WILCOX COUNTY

OPPONENT	SCORE
Seminole County	Won 33-20
Perry	Won 34-13
Wilkinson County	Lost 21-25
Bryan County	Won 27-6
Twiggs County	Lost 12-48
Telfair County	Won 35-6
Dooly County	Won 28-6
Hawkinsville	Won 26-10
Turner County	Won 41-0
Irwin County	Won 33-12
Treutlen	Won 23-20
Greenville	Won 39-19
Wesleyan	Won 20-15

## CLINCH COUNTY VS. WILCOX COUNTY

The GHSA Class A semifinals will feature Clinch County (10-3) against Wilcox County (11-2). Reaching the semifinals is old hat for the Clinch County Panthers. This will be their seventh trip in the last eight seasons, although the 2009 playoff run has not been as easy as in years past. They won in a back-and-forth contest with Holy Innocents' last week by the score of 35-27. The dynamic duo of Vintavious Cooper and Trey Dorsey proved to be the difference. Cooper combined to throw and run for four touchdowns and Dorsey had 140 yards rushing in the game. The Panthers have been one of the most successful teams in recent years and could win their third state championship since 2002.

Wilcox County has had a similarly tough road to the semifinals. The Patriots had to beat a tough Wesleyan team 20-15 last week. QB/DB Nick Marshall did it all for the Patriots. He started by intercepting a pass and returning it 20 yards for a touchdown, and then passed for two touchdowns and 275 yards, including the game-winning touchdown pass to Nate Moorhouse with five minutes left. The Patriots have never won a state title, but beating Clinch will put them in position to get their first.



## DARLINGTON VS. SAVANNAH CHRISTIAN

The other Class A semifinal will feature undefeated Savannah Christian (13-0) against Darlington (9-4) in Rome. The SCPS Raiders have never made it this far in the playoffs since joining the GHSA in the late '80s. Running back Chris Barnwell has led the team throughout the season and during the playoffs. He had 114 yards and two touchdowns against Miller County in the second round and scored the only touchdown against Lincoln County in his team's tough 7-0 upset. The Raider defense held Lincoln to only 40 yards rushing last week and is allowing an average of just over seven points in the playoffs. They are gunning for their first state title since 1984, when they were members of the GISA.

Darlington comes in at 9-4 and has blazed through the playoffs so far. The Tigers took care of Commerce easily in the second round, 28-14, and then shut out Twiggs County, 17-0, to get to the semis. The defense against Twiggs was dominant, stopping four fourth-down plays and shutting out an opponent that was averaging 40 points per game. The Tigers gained home field advantage with a win in a coin toss between the two No. 1 seeds. Darlington is going for its first state title since 1998.

*The photo of Ivy Duggan is courtesy of Darlington. By Joe Deighton, who can be reached at [jdeighton@scoreatl.com](mailto:jdeighton@scoreatl.com).*

## DARLINGTON

OPPONENT	SCORE
Chattooga	Lost 7-40
Wesleyan	Lost 0-35
Ridgeland	Lost 0-28
Murphy, NC	Won 22-20
Bowdon	Won 23-20
Walker	Won 41-20
Bremen	Won 35-28
Mt. Zion, Carroll	Won 40-0
Gordon Lee	Won 23-7
Trion	Lost 14-21
Warren County	Won 16-14
Commerce	Won 28-14
Twiggs County	Won 17-0

## SAVANNAH CHRISTIAN

OPPONENT	SCORE
Montgomery County	Won 34-0
Emanuel County Institute	Won 34-0
Wheeler County	Won 46-19
Jenkins	Won 34-14
Claxton	Won 27-0
Bryan County	Won 40-7
Savannah Country Day	Won 55-14
Calvary Day	Won 20-10
Portal	Won 21-7
Jenkins County	Won 35-12
Irwin County	Won 14-10
Miller County	Won 28-13
Lincoln County	Won 7-0



# CLASS A ROSTERS



## CLINCH COUNTY

Head Coach: Jim Dickerson

No.	Name	Year	Pos.
1	Dexter Edwards	12	WR/DB
2	Tony Williams	12	WR/DB
3	Dalton Bennett	10	RB/LB
5	Kenneth White	10	WR/LB
6	Trey Richardson	11	RB/LB
8	Fred Tiller	10	WR/DB
9	Vintavious Cooper	12	QB/DB
10	Zack Thomas	11	RB/LB
11	Callan Windham	11	TE/DE
12	Elprict Kelsaw	11	WR/DB
13	Damian Magby	11	QB/DB
16	Matthew Riley	11	WR/DB
19	Frederick Collier	10	QB/DB
20	Micheal Lamie	10	WR/DB
2	1Michael Jackson	11	WR/DE
23	Trayvolis Dorsey	11	RB/DB
24	Kenyun Morehead	9	RB/DB
25	Anthony McNeil	11	RB/LB
28	Rashad Grant	10	RB/DB
29	Gaylon McNeil	9	RB/LB
35	James Landrum	10	WR/DB
40	Keith Paisley	12	OL/DL
42	Trevor Posley	11	TE/DE
44	Jessie Futch	9	TE/DE
45	Caleb Thompson	9	WB/DE
50	Zach Smith	12	OL/DL
51	Zackery Handley	12	OL/DL
55	Earnest Taylor	11	OL/DL
56	Deshawn Andrews	11	OL/DL
57	Russell Beverley	9	OL/DL
58	Dondre Thomas	12	OL/DL
59	Frankie Swinson	10	OL/DL
60	Chad Flintroyal	9	OL/DE
61	Khadarius Cleveland	10	OL/DL
64	Brandon Jordan	11	OL/DL
65	Trey Dickerson	12	OL/DL
67	Shae Bell	9	OL/DL3
68	Davis Bruorton	12	OL/DL
72	Derrick Touchton	9	OL/DE
73	Clay Cross	12	OL/DL
74	Johnnie Hendrick	12	OL/DL
75	Bobby Pittman	11	OL/DL
76	AJ Martin	12	OL/DL
77	Nick Johnson	12	OL/DL
82	Jerry Herrin	11	OL/DE
85	Daniel Spivey	12	RB/DL

## WILCOX COUNTY

Head Coach: Mark Ledford

No.	Name	Year	Pos.
1	Tay Porter	11	WR/DB
2	Quez Mahogany	10	WR/DB
3	Nate Moorhouse	12	WR/LB
4	Jamaal Holmes	9	RB/DE

5	Timothy Turner	10	RB/DB
6	Brandon Lawson	10	RB/LB
7	Jonathan Howard	9	WR/DB
8	Bryant Fuller	10	WR/DB
9	Jatarius Jackson	11	RB/DB
10	Makail Grace	9	QB/DB
11	Lonnie Outlaw	12	WR/DB
12	Matt Iglesias	11	WR/DB
14	Nick Marshall	11	QB/DB
15	Marcus Griffin	12	TE/DE
16	Andrew Benjamin	9	TE/LB
17	Shaquille West	9	WR/DE
20	Jeffrey Wessel	11	WR/DB
21	Stanley Ferguson	12	WR/DB
22	Tyrrell Miller	12	TE/DE
24	Rod Lawson	12	RB/LB
25	Rohan Townsend	9	RB/LB
26	Demarcus Denmark	10	WR/D
28	Andy Scott	12	RB/DB
31	Chris Coley	12	RB/LB
32	Harris McBurse	9	WR/DB
34	Patrick McGuinty	10	K
35	Bryce Cohen	11	RB/LB
36	Larry Lindsey	9	WR/DM
38	Jamarr Miller	10	TE/DB
40	Johnny Brown	12	RB/DL
41	Tyler Ledford	10	WR/DB
42	Antonio James	12	RB/LB
44	Antowan Miller	10	WR/DB
45	Rakeen Lawson	10	RB/DL
51	Michael Dennard	9	OL/DL
52	Gregory Jackson	11	OL/DL
53	Shaquille Jackson	10	OL/DL
54	Justin Harden	12	OL/DE
55	Stephen Sheard	9	OL/DL
56	Chad Paramore	12	OL/DL
58	Tommy Fuller	12	OL/DL
60	Kevin Jackson	11	OL/DL
61	Chase Williford	9	OL/DL
62	Rob Land	11	OL/DL
63	Juan Carrillo	9	OL/DL
64	Allen Phillips	12	OL/DE
65	Dylan Gaines	11	OL/DL
66	Kent Braden	9	OL/DL
67	Adam Reid	10	OL/DL
68	Marquis Brown	9	OL/DL
70	Tyler McWhorter	12	OL/DL
71	Alvin Williams	10	OL/DL
74	Deion Adams	12	OL/DL
75	Tremaine Childs	9	OL/DL
78	Dustin Owens	10	OL/DL
80	Michael Denmark	11	WR/DB
82	Tevin Lawson	12	WR/DE
83	Alphonso Carter	10	TE/DE
84	Milton Jackson	10	WR/DE
85	Tre' Hollis	11	WR/DB
86	Vidhal Emory	11	TE/DE

## DARLINGTON

Head Coach: Tommy Atha

No.	Name	Year	Pos.
1	Tevin Hamilton	11	SB/FS
2	Davis Page	9	FB/LB
3	AJ White	12	SE/C
4	Cameron Gibson	10	SE/C
5	Spencer Jones	10	QB/LB
6	Cedric Spivey10	10	SB/LB
7	Trey Langston	11	TB/LB
10	Brad Butler	9	QB/LB
12	Tylon Garrett	12	SB/LB
14	Ben Davidson	11	PK/P11
15	Luke Cook	11	SE/DE
17	Nigel Matthews	10	QB/C10
20	Ivy Duggan	10	TB/C
24	Jesse Cook	9	SB/LB
25	Rashard Perry	10	SB/LB
27	Ryan Webster	11	TE/DT
28	Issac Nichols	11	FB/LB
32	Christopher Griffin	11	FB/LB
33	William Waters	12	SE/LB
37	Russ Arnold	11	FB/LB
41	Collin Sheffield	9	SB/LB
44	Chase Butler	12	TE/LB
50	Alex Sentell	12	T/DE
52	Gus Vaughn	9	G/DT
53	Matt Goldin	10	G/DE
54	Thad Mathis	12	G/DT
55	Tyler Morris	10	C/DE
56	Nick Mullen	11	FB/LB
60	Will Lester	12	T/DT
63	Gavin Lawrence	10	G/DT
65	Blake Huether	11	C/DT
67	Wayne Gammon	9	T/DE
71	Quinn Simon	11	G/DT
73	Will Remkus	9	G/LB
75	Henderson Stegall	11	T/DT
77	Kendall Gaylor	10	G/DT
80	Arthur Pollard	11	TE/DE
82	Jordan Muschamp	9	SE/LB
83	Will Goldin	9	SE/C
88	Chase Tolbert	10	TE/LB
89	Joe Breen	9	TE/DE
90	Franklin Schrum	9	PK

## SAVANNAH CHRISTIAN

Head Coach: Donald Chumley

No.	Name	Year	Pos.
1	Nardo Govan	10	DB
2	Grant Stevens	9	LB
3	Cody Pennington	11	WR
4	Russell Wilson	10	DB
5	Timothy McCarthy	12	K
6	Andrew Moore	11	LB
7	Mac Miller	10	P

9	Kenny Katzman	11	DB
11	Johnathon Chamblee	10	QB
12	Jake Clemens	9	QB
13	Timothy Whelan	9	DB
14	Jordan Smith	9	DB
16	Harrison Curry	11	QB
17	Taylor Ivey	11	WR
18	Bryan Moros	12	DB
19	Austin Dubberly	11	RB
20	Will Austin	10	RB
21	T. J. Franklin	10	RB
22	Lamir Cohens	10	DB
23	Jake Carrillo	9	DB
25	Austin Amick	9	DB
26	Chris Barnwell	12	FB
27	Kyle Swinson	12	DL
29	Jalen Myrick	9	WR
31	Ryan Bacon	12	DB
32	Scott Brannen	9	FB
33	Tanner Burch	11	LB
34	Chris Geraldts	9	WR
35	Grayson Williams	9	LB
36	Michael McCumber	9	RB
38	Ryan Price	11	DB
39	Josh Burnett	10	DB
40	Hunter Hebert	9	RB
41	Hal Davis	10	LB
42	Eric Wickham	11	LB
44	Will Clark	12	DB
46	Connor West	10	DB
47	Byron Saxon	9	LB
48	Chris Johnston	10	FB
50	Charlie Ferrell	12	OL
51	Michael Connelly	11	DL
52	Caleb Womble	11	OL
53	Mason Crecy	11	OL
54	Will Bright	10	DL
55	Daniel Feldman	9	LB
56	Charles Morton	11	DL
58	J. T. Royal	12	OL
59	Matt Moore	10	OL
60	Ben McMahon	12	OL
62	Michael Burke	9	DL
63	John Hosey	11	DL
64	Josh Gay	10	OL
66	Connor Williams	10	OL
72	Cooper Lemonds	11	DL
73	Keaon Moon	12	OL
74	Louis Kral	10	OL
76	Josh Garland	10	DL
77	Deangelo Brown	10	DL
80	Erik Davis	10	DL
81	Conrad Martin	9	WR
84	Phillip Abshire	10	DL
85	John Burke	12	DL
87	Wesley Smith	11	DL
88	Chris Kehrner	12	WR



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