

WELCOME FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RALPH SWEARNGIN Greetings, GHSA Baseball Fans!

Welcome to the 2011 GHSA Championship Series for Baseball, the final GHSA event of this school year. Four weeks ago these teams began the journey through the playoffs, and now they are poised for the final challenge - competing for the State Championship. Georgia High School Association is proud of the commitment to excellence that these players and coaches have demonstrated throughout the season, as the quality of high school baseball in Georgia continues to grow phenomenally.

We hope that you, the faithful fans, will enjoy these games, and that you will demonstrate the highest levels of sportsmanship as you positively encourage "your team" toward victory.

The GHSA is grateful for the generous contributions of our corporate partners who enable us to provide these events.

As you see the list of these partners around the field, please support them at every opportunity.



Ralph Swearngin GHSA Executive Director

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The 2011 Georgia High School Association Baseball State Championship Guide is published by Score Prep, a division of Score Atlanta, in conjunction with the GHSA. The guide was designed by DJ Galbiati, information and brackets provided by the GHSA. Photos on the cover are courtesy of Wesleyan High School, Tami McQueen, Perry McIntyre and Tad Stephens. For more information on Score Prep, go to scoreatl.com or call 404-256-1572.

GHSA BASEBALL CHAMPIONS

					_	
Year	AAAA	AAA	AA	A	В	C
1946				Lanier		
1947				West Fulton		
1948				Decatur	Canton	Meigs
1949				Marist	Gainesville	Ellingham Co.
1950					R.E. Lee	West Point
1951			Richmond Acad.	Newnan	Swainsboro	Duluth
1952			Richmond Acad.	Avondale	Pepperell	West Point
1953			Richmond Acad.	Americus	Pepperell	Glenwood
1954			Richmond Acad.	Americus	Pepperell	Colbert
1955			Richmond Acad.	Americus	Milton	Mt. Zion
1956			Richmond Acad.	Thomasville	Tucker	Shellman
1957		Richmond Acad.	Miller Co.	Pepperell	Model	Dade Co.
1958		Griffin	Campbell, Smyrna	Pepperell	Model	Dade Co.
1959		Griffin	Rossville	Model	Hughes	Twiggs Co.
1960		Murphy	Rossville	Winder-Barrow	Hughes	Coosa
1961		Bendictine	West Rome	Americus	Perry	Mt. Zion
1962		Griffin	Crisp Co.	Carrolton	Perry	Twiggs Co.
1963		Murphy	West Rome	Hughes	Norcross	Union Point
1964		Avondale	East Rome	Americus	Fayette Co.	Plains
1965		Lanier	Headland	Americus	Terrell Co.	Union
1966		Dykes	Headland	Americus	West Point	Mt. de Sales
1967		Tucker	Tucker	Westminster	Seminole Co.	Puntnam Co.
1968		Therell	Wayne Co.	Westminster	Terrell Co.	Mt. de Sales
1969		Willinghm	Walker	Americus	Terrell Co.	Mt. de Sales
1970		Dykes	Pepperell	Americus	Roswell	Clay Co.
1971		Jordan	Lakeview	Roswell	Wheeler Co.	Mt. de Sales
1972		Sequoyah	Lakeview	Hephizibah	West Point	Mt. de Sales
1973		Glynn	Stephens Co.	Irwin Co.	Trion	
1974		Henderson	Calhoun	Harlem	West Point	
1975		Wheeler	Westminster	Irwin Co.	GAC	
1976		Savannah	Bradwell Institute	Mt. de Sales	GMI	
1977		Kendrick	Marist	Pepperell	Buford	
1978		Valdosta	Gainesville	Harlem	ML de Sales	
1979	Newton Co.	Winder-Barrow	Harlem	Gordon lee		
1980	Griffin	Cofee	Pepperell	Mt. de Sales		
1981	Lowndes	Marist	Harlem	Brookstone		
1982	Coffee	NW Whitfield	Harlem	GAC		
1983	Coffee	Marist	Harlem	Trion		
1984	Columbus	Marist	Darlington	Gordon Lee		
1985	Forest Park	Marist	Hancock Central	Calhoun Co.		
1986	Brookwood	Roswell	Harlem	Clinch Co.		
1987	MacEachern	Westside	Shiloh	Clinch Co.		
1988	Evans	Westside	Berrien	Towns Co.		
1989	Evans	Jones Co.	Washington-Wilkes	Clinch Co.		
1990	Evans	Marist	Lovett	Bremen		
1991	Newnan	Columbus	Perry	Clinch Co.		
1992	Walton	Columbus	Cook	Clinch Co.		
1993	Evans	Columbus	Lovett	Pace Acad.		
1994	Evans	Marist	Lovett	Pace Acad.		
1995	Sprayberry	Columbus	Vidalia	Pace Acad.		
1996	Parkview	Columbus	Gainesville	Toombs Co.		
1997	Colquilt Co.	Columbus	Gainesville	Irwin Co.		
1998	Harrison	Greenbrier	Gainesville	North Forsyth		
1999	Lasister	Greenbrier	Thomasville	Lovett		
2000	Lowndes	Columbus	Cook	Calhoun		
Year	AAAAA	AAAA	AAA	AA	A	
2001	Parkview	Shaw	Gainesville	Cartersville	Walker	
2002	Parkview	Marist	Gainesville	Cartesville	Walker	
2003	Colquilt co.	Marist	Cartersville	Vidalia	Clinch Co.	
2003	Milton	Columbus	LaGrange	Bacon Co.	Lakeview Acad.	
2005	Chattahooche	Henry Co.	Columbus	Calhoun	Calvary Day	
2006	Lassiter	Greenbrier	Blessed Trinity	Lovett	ELCA	
2007	Walton	Greenbrier	Dunwoody	Holy Innocents	Calvary Day	
	Brookwood	Loganville	Cartersville	Wesleyan	Pacelli	
2008				www.oicydll	I acciii	
2008			Cartersville		Weslevan	
2008 2009 2010	Pope Harrison	Northgate Marist	Cartersville Columbus	Lovett Calhoun	Wesleyan Wesleyan	





CHAMPIONSHIP STEPHEN BLACK New faces join traditional powers in quest for state championships



Welcome to the big time.

Ten teams are still alive in the hunt for Georgia high school baseball championships this weekend. Five will be crowned state champions, but all will go home with a sense of pride. Since the first pitch was thrown towards the end of winter, hundreds of teams have tried to get to this point in the season.

But only the following teams are still playing.



Hillgrove at Parkview

The host Panthers arrived in the finals after winning the final two games at Colquitt County in a tense semifinal series. After dropping Game 1 3-0, the Panthers trailed

4-1 in the second tilt before rallying to score seven runs in the fifth to win 8-4.

Hillgrove took an easier semifinals path by sweeping Newnan 8-6 and 8-0, but the Hawks had to win the last two games of their quarterfinal series against Mill Creek. The Cobb County school won the rubber game 7-6 in extra innings to advance.

CLASS AAAA ...

Whitewater at Marist

No. 2 Marist rallied to take the final two games of the semifinal series against No. 3 Loganville (rankings according to gasports.com). War Eagle players Andy Perez (Duke) and Brandon Liebrandt (Florida State) have signed scholarship offers to play baseball at the next level.

> Meanwhile, Whitewater, which was unranked in the pre-playoffs top 10, swept Effingham County in the semifinals. The Wildcats have been hot of late. After starting the season 6-4, they

have improved their record to 27-7.

This final pits a traditional power that is used to winning in Marist (11 state titles) against a young program playing for its first championship.

CLASS AAA ...

Spalding at Columbus

The Jaguars and Blue Devils each swept their semifinal series, but one had a much more dramatic series than the other. Spalding won two games against Woodward Academy, each by one run. Coach Mickey Moody's club outscored the War Eagles 11-10 and 15-14 in the series.

Meanwhile, Columbus waxed visiting Thomson without giving up any runs. This came on the heels of a quarterfinal series against West Laurens in which the Blue Devils allowed just five runs in three games.

According to the gasports.com coaches poll, Spalding is the No. 1 team in the state. But that won't faze No. 6 Columbus, which has defeated No. 2 Thomson and No. 5 Ringgold in the playoffs.

CLASS AA ...

Pike County at Buford

Pike County qualified for the first state finals appearance in school history by defeating Lovett in three games during the semifinals. Pitcher Lance Shelton was the hero of

the rubber game, hurling a three-hitter and giving up just one earned run. Kody Adams earned a complete game win in Game 1 of the Lovett series.

Buford swept into the finals by defeating visiting Appling County in two games. Two Georgia Tech signees, Jake Burnette and Josh Heddinger, lead Buford's pitching staff. The Wolves have yet to lose a game in the state

CLASS A ...

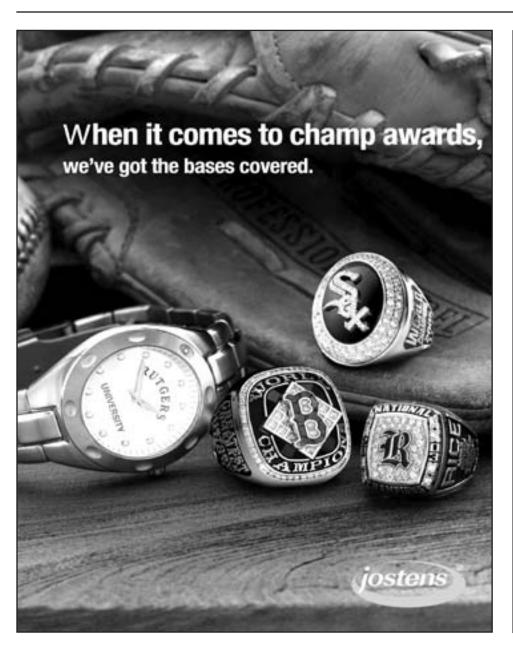
Providence Christian at Hebron Christian

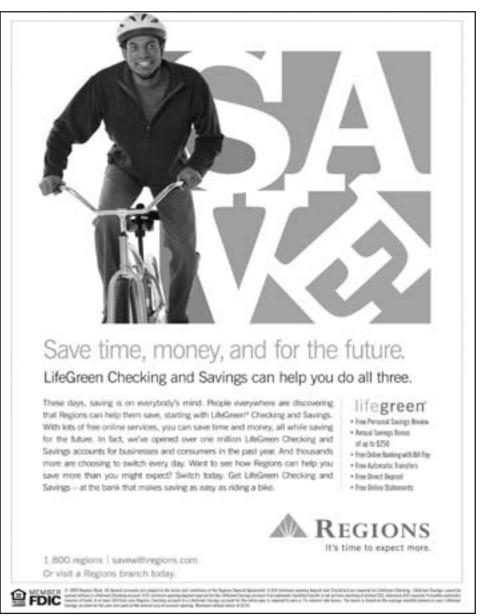
Hebron Christian took two straight from No. 1 Calvary Day in Savannah to get to the finals. The Lions will now host upstart Providence Christian in the finals.

The Stars, one of the surprise finalists, rebounded from losing the first game in the semifinal series to Treutlen and won the final two games in convincing fashion. Coach Adam Cantrell's squad extended the series by winning Game 2 10-0 and then dominated the rubber game 15-4.

The Lions, ranked No. 2 according to the gasports.com coaches poll, boast four college signees in shortstop Danny Lockhart, pitcher Kevin Burgee, outfielder Christian Davila and second baseman Seth Gower.

Photo courtesy of Whitewater High School Yearbook Staff. Black can be reached at sblack@scoreatl.com.





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CHAMPIONSHIP BASEBALL ROSTERS

AAAAA - Hillgrove at Parkview
AAAA - Whitewater at Marist
AAA - Spalding at Columbus
AA - Pike County at Buford
A - Providence Christian at Hebron Christian

	CLASS A	AAAA		5	Taylor Miller	Р	12		Columbus Blue			9	Clay Gant	2B	11
	Hillgrove Hawks			7	Jared Gillis	P/DH	12		Head Coach: Bob	by Howar	d	11	Sam Clay	P/OF	11
	Head Coach: Dave	Richards	on	8	Robert Nelson	P	11	2	Patrick Stallings	IF	11	12	Jake Burnette	P/SS	12
2	Robert Stewart	2B	12	9	Austen Hammond	P/3B	11	3	Spencer Draws	IF	11	18	Brian Malone	3B/2B	11
3	Daniel Ellis	OF/P	12	11	Tyler Wesolowski	2B	12	4	Josh Lester	IF	11	20	Avery LaBuz	OF/P	11
5	Chad Adkins	2B/SS	10	12	Josh Baker	P	12		Keith Sims	P/OF	11	21	Josh Heddinger	P/1B	12
6	Justin Motley	0F	12	13	Trevor Morgan	C/P	10	11	Tate Hutwagner	P/IF	12	22	Tyler White	1B/P	12
7	Ryan Raper	3B/C	12	14	Parker Armagost	0F	11		Jordan Weems	C	12	24	Troy Herterick	1B/P	11
8	Tucker Ehmig	OF/P	12	15	Trevor Kennedy	2B	11		Ryan Lang	0F	11	25	Zac Lynn	SS/2B	12
9	Mitchell Wade	P/C	12	16	Zach Enloe	1B	11		Tyler Mathis	IF/P	12	26	Taylor Harter	0F	12
10	, ,	OF	11	17	John Tyler Nash	1B/C	11		Cody Walker	C	12	27	Nic Dlugasch	C/P	11
11	,	2B/SS	10	19	John Mark Rhodes	OF/P	11		J.T. Phillips	IF/P	11	29	Mason Gentry	OF/P	10
	Max Oberkofler	P/1B	12	21	Evan Gresham	OF/P	11		Troy Darr	0F	12				
	Chase Adkins	OF/P	10	22	Joel Van Asch	C	12		Parker Cliatt	IF	12		CLASS		
_	Dean Mullett	1B/C	11	23	Alex Liquori	04 Diago D		Jonathan Hamby	IF/OF/P	11	Pr	ovidence Christian	•		
	Adam Perry	1B	12	24	Daniel Amos	P/3B	11		Pierce Ressmeyer	P/IF IF/0F/P	11		Head Coach: Ada		I
	Dylan Dunn	1B	11	28	Drew Wesolowski	1B/3B	12		•		10	1	Tyler Brown	0F	11
	Tyler Weyenberg	1B/0F	10						Avery Seckinger Will Solomon	0F	11	2	Zach Rutland	0F	12
	Michael Adkins	•		Marist War Eagles					P/OF	12	3	Patrick Smith	P/2B	11	
	Eric Baguley	1B/3B	12		Head Coach: Mike	Stricklar	ıd		Brendan Fox	P/OF	12 11	4	Justin Brew	0F	10
	Carson Black	1B	12	2	David Bourbonnais	IF/P	12		Daniel Lee	IF/OF	11	5	Josh Carter	2B/P	11
	Justin Haney	1B/P	10	4	Chesny Young	IF	12		Joey Brown	P IF/C	10	6	Austin Loyd	SS	11
_	Brian Minter	1B	11 11	5	Anthony Sherlag	C	10		John Weekley Nick Pokey	C	9	7	David Pence	P	12
	Sean O'Leary	1B		6	Conor Lange	IF/P	11		Kyle Carter	OF/P	11	8	Erich Stahl	3B/P	10
	Tyler Graham	1B/1B 1B	11	7	Cole Sutter	C	12		Will Kilgore	IF	9	9	John Bailey	0F	11
	Ben Lumsden	1B	12 12	9	Brett Dolan	IF/P	12		Jonathon Danford	INF	11	10		P/3B	10
δI	Josh Hagerman	ID	12	10	Andy Perez	IF	12		Josh Bricker	P	12	11		0F	11
	Dorkviou Por	athoro		11	Jack Mohan	0F	12		Anthony Padron	IF/OF/P	11		Christin Stewart	C/1B	11
	Parkview Panthers Head Coach: Chan Brown				Daniel Spingola	OF/P	12		Greg Lewis	P	11	15	Glen Williamson	P/1B	12
4			12	13	Brandon Leibrandt	P/IF	12		Luke Thompson	OF/IF/P	10	21	Charlie Scott	C/IF	10
ı	Marquis Webb Jeff Ronpirin	3B/2B 2B	11	14	Blake Stevens	P/IF	12		Anthony Dalponte	IF/P	10	22	Alan Skinner	P/OF	12
2	Jack Esmonde	P/SS	11	15	Cole Truxillo	P	12	40	Antilony Daiponto	11 / 1	10	23	Nick Stidham	C/DH	12
4	Ryan Blanton	0F/P	10	18	Charlie Mathes	C	12		CLASS	ΔΔ			Alex Kelly	3B/P	12
5	Nick Bader	P	12	20	Kevin Gale	0F	12		Pike County F				Max Broom	IF/P	10
6	Travis Naraine	2B/0F	12	21	Georges Durot	0F	12		Head Coach: Do				Steven Slaughter	1B/P	11
7	Edwin Arias	SS/2B	11	22	William Curran	0F	11	2	Delvin Jordan	OF	11		Matt James	3B	10
8	Ben Redford	C/2B	12	23	Jack Southers	P	12	3	Drew Watkins	P/OF	11	44	Zach Meier	P	9
	Austin Fisher	0/2 <i>B</i> P	11	27	David Phelts	0F	11	4	Dustin Jordan	2B/SS	12				
11		3B/0F	10	30	Griffin Davis	0F	11	6	Kody Adams	OF/P	12		Hebron Christian Ad	•	
	Phillip Taylor	P	12	32	Mitchell Anderson	IF/P	12	7	Brett Butler	2B/C	11		Head Coach: Hea		•
	Mac Marshall	P/OF	9					8	Edward Folker	1B	12	1	Christian Davila	0F	12
	Zack Reinstein	3B/P	12		CLASS A			10	Chris Long	C/P	12	2	Lew Stephens	OF	10
	Josh Hart	OF/P	10		Spalding Jaç	juars				SS/P	11	3	Nathen Holt	SS/2B	10
	Jarrett Freeland	C/1B	10		Head Coach: Micl	-	-	13	Zack Woods	OF/P	11	4	Jordan Hillyer	3B/P	11
	A J Davis	0F	11	1	Will Golden	0F	12	14	DeAndre Holmes	0F	11	5	Robby Stephens	C D/05	9
21	Matt Olson	1B/P	11	2	Matt Hayes	IF/P	11	19	Lance Shelton	OF/P	12	6	Ryan Treadwell	P/OF	11
22	Jesse Foster	OF/P	11	4	Robert Green	IF/C	11	21	Chad Kirksey	3B/P	12	1	Danny Lockhart	SS/2B	12
23	Ryan McCranie	C/P	11	5	Michael Martin	0F	11	22	Jeried Woods	2B/SS	11	8	Drew Coker	1B/P	9
26	Sam McCoy	P/1B	10	6	Austin Hunt	OF/P	12	25	Wade Palmer	P/1B	12	9	Jon Bryant	P/1B	12
27	Hunter Thornton	C/P	10	7	Casey Moody	IF/P	11	26	Nate Ferrell	3B/P	12		Michael Dussling	P/3B	10
29	Micah Finley	0F	10	8	Tyler Metts	IF/P	11	27	Jonathan Norton	0F	11		PJ Westbury	2B/0F	11
32	Brooks Davis	1B/P	12	9	Caleb Gavel	IF/P	12					11	, ,,	C/1B	10
					Nathan Skinner	OF/P	12		Buford Wo				Seth Gower	2B/0F	12
CLASS AAAA					Jake Siegler	IF/P	11		Head Coach: To	•			Justin Bagley	1B	12
	Whitewater W				Dylan Griffin	U/P	12	1	Kyler Berrett	SS	11	17	33	0F	12
	Head Coach: Bob	-			Anson Link	IF/C	10	2	Cameron Gazaway	SS	11		Kevin Burgee	P/OF	12
1	Bucky Wesolowski	SS	11		Powell Krepps	IF/P	10	4	James Nix	2B	12		Mason Felt	P/1B	11
2	Renaldo Jenkins	SS	12		Zack Lerner	IF/C/P	12	5	Adam Hampton	OF/P	12		Benji Cash	P/1B	10
3	Bryan Taylor	2B	11		Cody Douglas	IF/P	11	6	Jamie Ritchie	C/OF	12		Matt Stephens	OF D	12
4	Justin Trammell	2B	9	21	Austin Smith	IF/P	11	7	Brian Clark	OF/P	12	23	Royce Baptist	Р	11

New bat technology forces rule change as GHSA promotes safety

aseball is America's national pastime. **D**But the game has changed quite a bit since the days of Honus Wagner and Ty Cobb.

High school baseball in the state of Georgia is no different than anywhere else in this great country. Advances in technology have given hitters and pitchers superior equipment and facilities to what our forefathers possessed.

THE BOUNCE FACTOR ...

Long gone is the heyday of real wooden bats for young ballplayers. Starting with tball, hopeful dads are spending hundreds of dollars on the latest and greatest bats. The father of the next would-be Chipper Jones looks for the lightest bat possible with the greatest "trampoline effect." The trampoline effect is exactly what it sounds like. The barrel of the bat absorbs the baseball, then springs the ball back with maximized speed. The result can be a round, leather-coated missile headed towards a player standing less than 60 feet away.

Composite bats have an outer wall similar to the aluminum bats that became popular in the 1970s. A graphite lining added the inside the metal sleeve of the barrel helps produce an additional "pop" of what could be upwards of 10 percent. In the late 1990s, hitters swung lighter bats. The thinking then was the lighter the bat, the faster the swing. The faster the swing, and, well, you get the idea. When a rules change required the bats to weigh nearly as much (in ounces) as their length (in inches), manufacturers shifted their focus to the trampoline effect. Basement physicists have also found a way to further improve these high-tech toys. Processes called "rolling" and "shaving" the bat's barrel readily seen on YouTube videos can add even more power.

SEEKING APPROVAL ...

The increased performance of the latest and greatest bats was addressed last summer by the National Federation of State High School Associations, (NFHS). As a member of the NFHS, the Georgia High School Association, or GHSA, has followed suit. It hasn't necessarily been an easy transition. The NFHS's baseball homepage on the website has a special quadrant of the screen dedicated just to the guidelines for approved and unapproved bats.

Since the first rule change last July, NFHS has added four more updates to help sort through the confusion. The intent is to have bats measured to a new, safer standard. In years past, bats carrying a BESR (Ball Exit Speed Ratio) stamp were approved. Now they must meet the BBCOR (Ball-Bat Coefficient Of Restitution) standard. Short story, the bats are required to have less pop and, therefore, not allowing the ball to reach such high speeds immediately after impact. The velocity of the ball off impact is intended to mimic those bygone wood bats.

That said, a potential switch to wooden bats doesn't seem very likely. First, the equipment manufacturers have invested too much in research and development to allow a full shift back in time. Second, although the performance of the bats has been somewhat tamed by the BBCOR standard, the composite models still perform about an estimated five to seven percent above wood bats. Third, in competitive sports, someone (parent, coach or player) out there is always going pay for any potential extra edge.

If this sounds a little confusing, it has been. Woodward Academy head coach Jim Minor led his team to this year's Class AAA semifinals, yet when asked if that he knew what either the BESR or BBCOR extrapolated meant, he responded, "To tell you the truth, I would have to look it up. And, as coaches, we have to know a lot of regulations just for taking our [certification] tests." To make things even more confusing, some legal bats have a composite handle but an aluminum alloy barrel.

Lassiter High head coach Scott Kelly recounted one game versus neighboring rival Pope, another perennial baseball power.

"We were about 10 games into the season, and we're getting ready to play," said Kelly. "The umpires call us out to home plate and tell us some of the bats are illegal. We'd played with them all year. I said, 'That's fine.' We won't use them.' Apparently some umpiring crews still weren't sure of the rules."

CHANGING THE GAME ...

By restricting the use of the hightech baseball weaponry, the game has been changed. Scoring in the GHSA baseball championships is down this spring. Kelly thinks although it's only one year, the trend is likely to continue and prompt coaches and players to adapt. "You'll see more small ball in the future, more stealing and hitting and running. That's for sure." He's quick to offer that he's not bothered by intent of the rule change. Kelly believes this will prepare elite players for the future because colleges have adopted a similar stance on bats and offensive numbers in professional baseball have also declined in the post performanceenhancing drug era.

Dennis Payne, the GHSA's Associate Director for baseball, acknowledges this has been a challenging process.

"This is a year that has been confusing because the rule is so complicated," said Payne. "Some bats are in and some bats are out. Some manufacturers had their bats retested and some those got on the [revised] approved list. Next year the bats will have to be stamped BBCOR and tamper resistant."

For Minor, Kelly and Payne, the ultimate priority is to protect the student-

"The bottom line is safety of the player," said Payne. "We've had too many injuries across the state with the ball coming off the bat and hurting a player. ... There's a reason they don't use

these bats in the major leagues."

Taking a stand and banning the use of some high-tech bats is a good step, but the moratorium won't eliminate all of the hazards of playing baseball.

"Pitchers will still get hit with the ball," said Payne. "It might be coming at 90 miles per hour instead of at 100 miles per hour, but it can still do some damage."

SAFETY FIRST ...

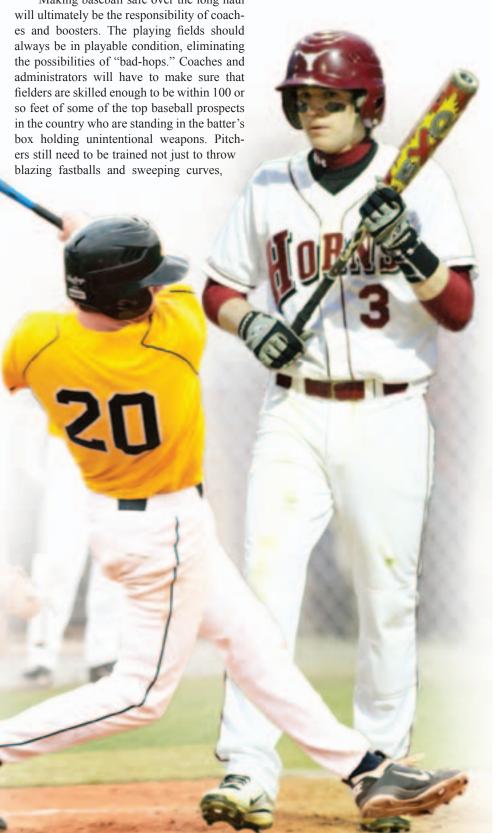
Baseball sporting goods are a big business and companies will continue to push the envelope. Just as when the rules on bats' weights were tweaked a decade ago, engineers are paid to find new angles to maximize and exploit performance.

Making baseball safe over the long haul will ultimately be the responsibility of coachalways be in playable condition, eliminating the possibilities of "bad-hops." Coaches and administrators will have to make sure that fielders are skilled enough to be within 100 or so feet of some of the top baseball prospects in the country who are standing in the batter's box holding unintentional weapons. Pitchers still need to be trained not just to throw blazing fastballs and sweeping curves,

but also to be taught how to finish their deliveries, get setup and defend themselves within tenths of a second.

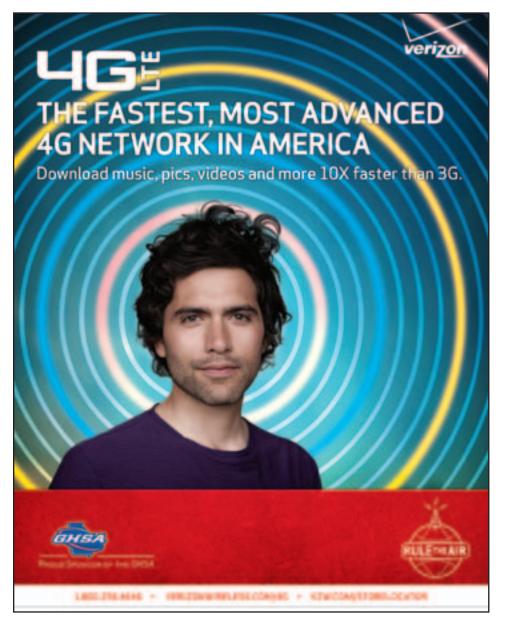
Baseball is a game of old school priorities. High school coaches, some decades past their playing days, still don the same uniforms as their players. Baseball often emphasizes skill over athleticism. By turning back the scoreboard on technology, safety and fundamentals, organizations like the NFHS and the GHSA are trying to win the game of player safety.

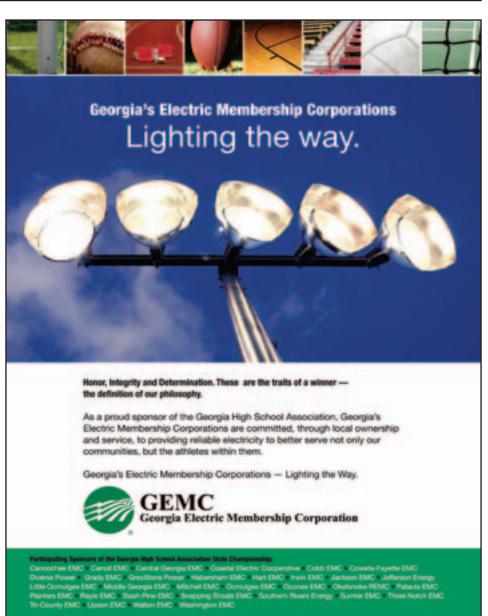
Photos courtesy of Toni James Photography and Charles Bowen. Conway can be reached at sconway@scoreatl.com.

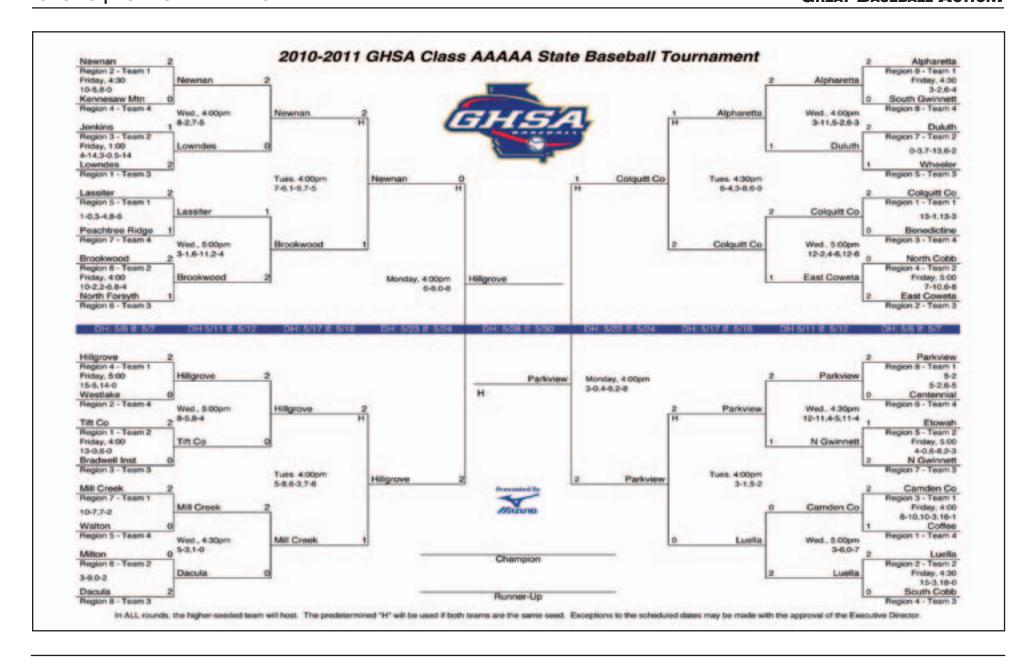


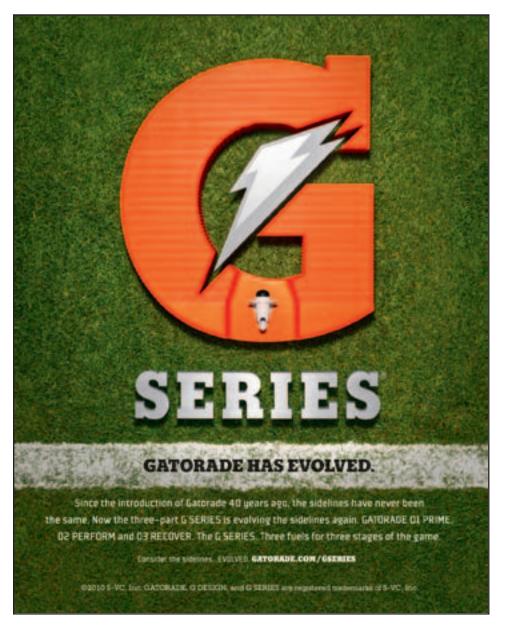


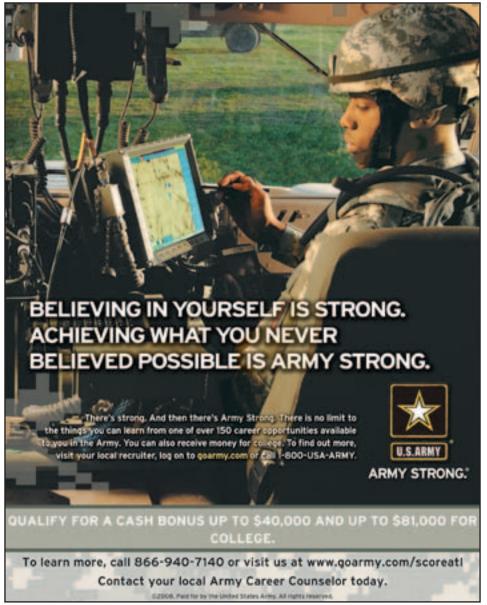


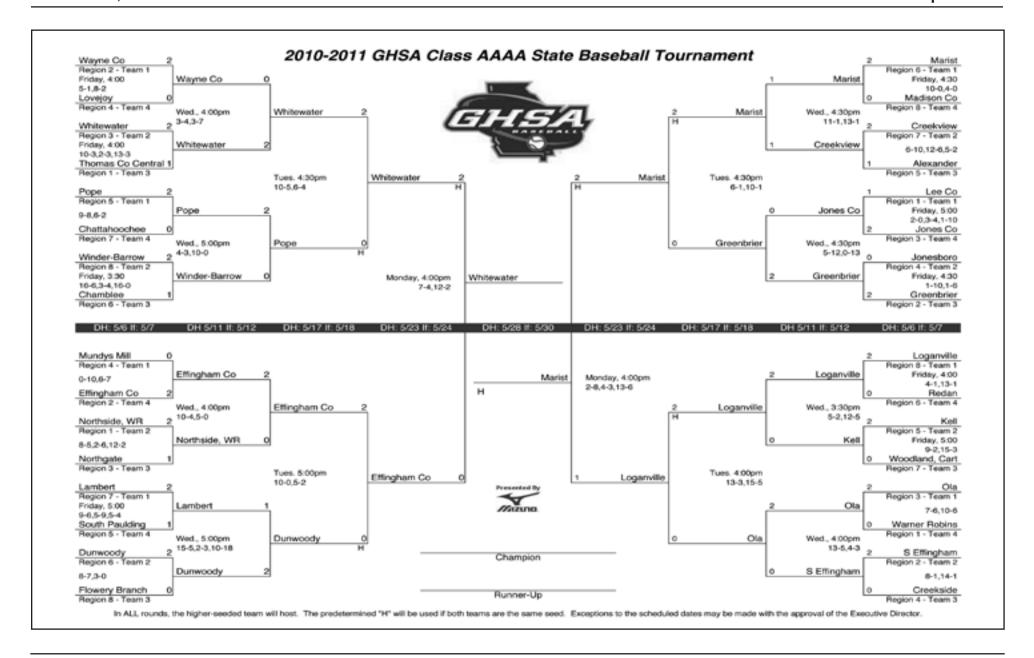


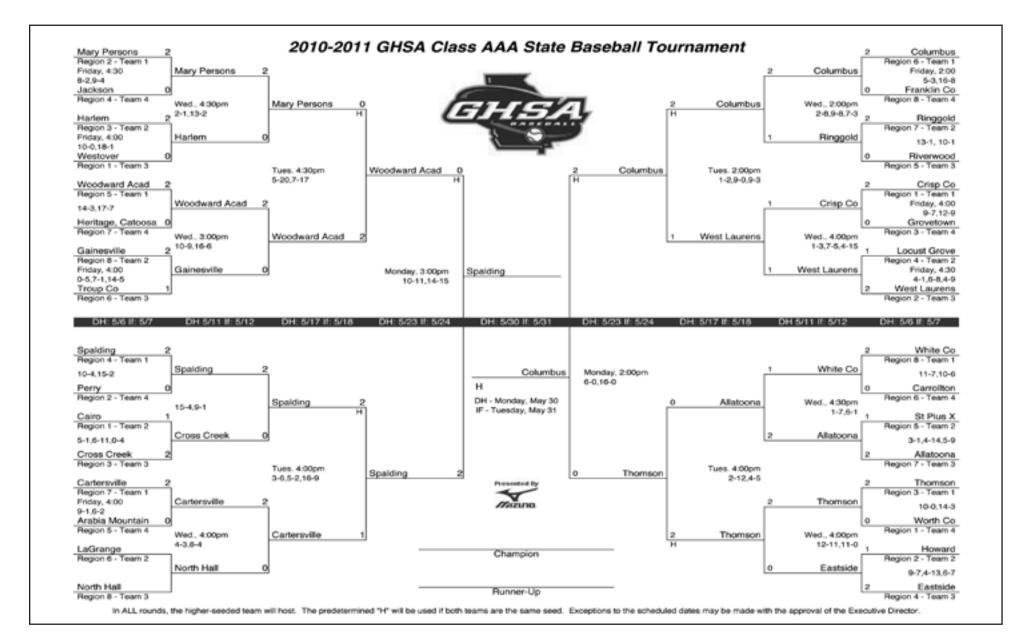


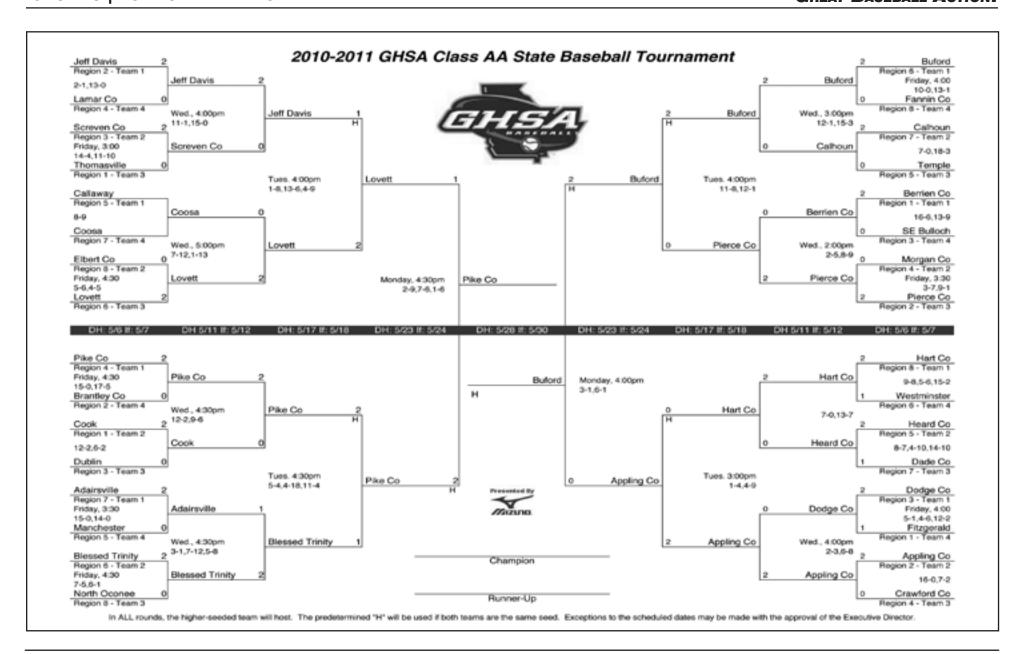


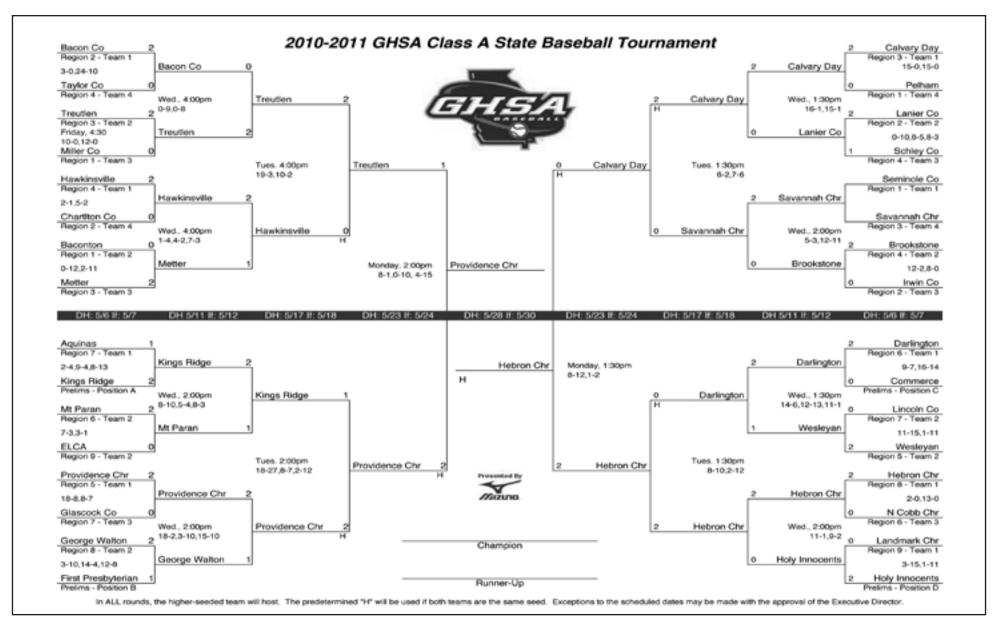


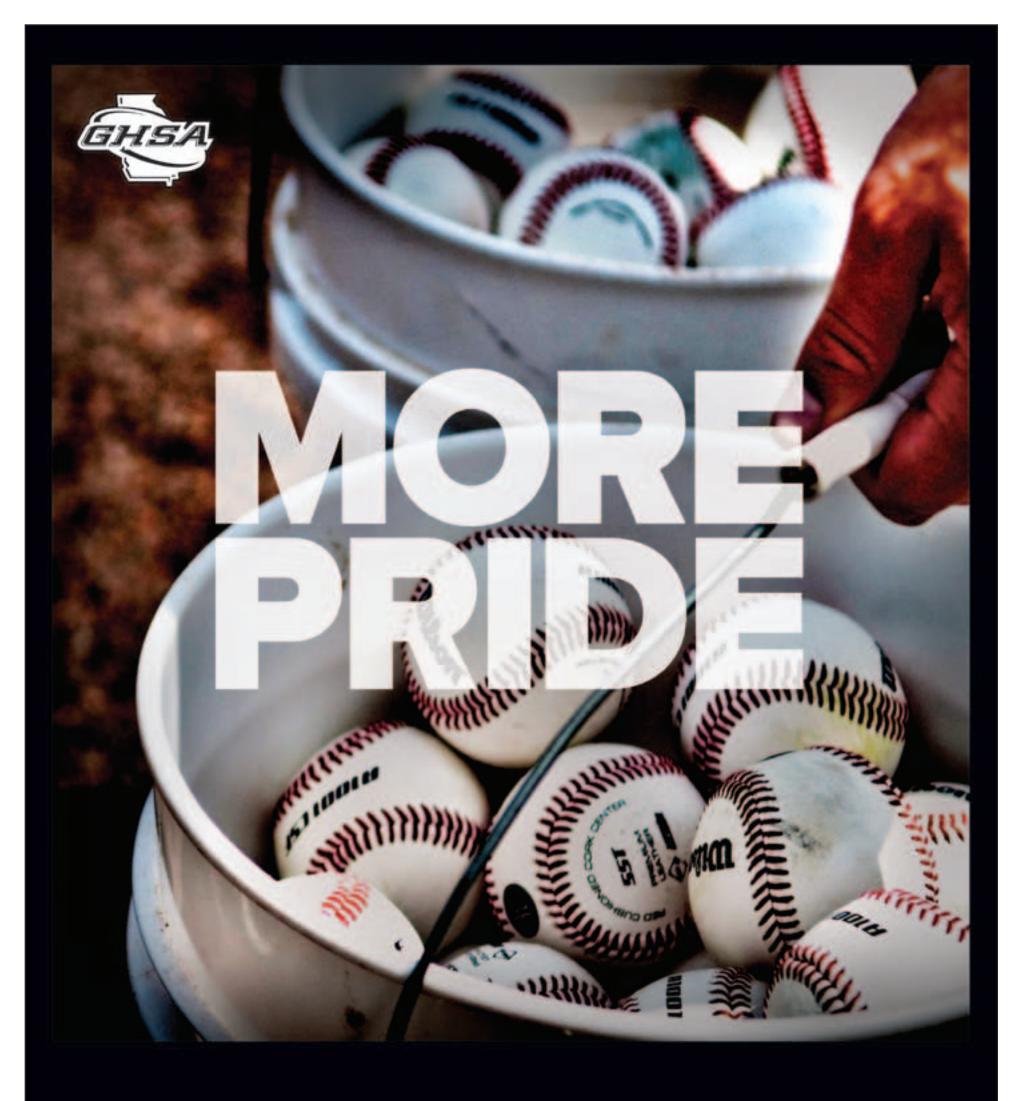














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