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Stuart Pate, Agent
401 Park Avenue
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stuart.pate.sq8i@statefarm.com



Lee Stallings Jr, Agent
114 N Dogwood Drive
Nashville, GA 31639
Bus: 229-686-7800

lee.stallings.nysa@statefarm.com



Patrick Scarbrough, Agent
226 E Jackson Street
Thomasville, GA 31792
Bus: 229-226-3131

patrick.j.scarbrough.un7x@statefarm.com



Chad Sumner, Agent
2402 Tift Ave N
Tifton, GA 31794
Bus: 229-382-1195

chad.sumner.l910@statefarm.com



Brian Huling, Agent
4197 Second Street, N
Folkston, GA 31537
Bus: 912-496-7351

brian.huling.chmt@statefarm.com



Andy Thomas, Agent
255 Carl Vinson Parkway
Warner Robins, GA 31088
Bus: 478-975-0069
andy.thomas.j12h@statefarm.com



Brent Dixon, Agent
119 S Parrish Avenue
Adel, GA 31620
Bus: 229-896-2257
brent.dixon.rd9l@statefarm.com



Chance C Veazey, Agent
1601 Us Highway 41 N
Tifton, GA 31794
Bus: 229-472-1495
chance.veazey.e3vu@statefarm.com



John Dawson, Agent
37 W. Jefferson St.
Hazlehurst, GA 31539
Bus: 912-375-7751
john.dawson.bw4e@statefarm.com

statefarm.com®





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georgiabaseball2006@yahoo.com

PUBLISHER/EDITOR

Tim Morse

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CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Olivia Morse

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Chattanooga Times Free Press, Jennifer Dougherty, Bush Enos Photography, Gwinnett Daily Post, Jim Haynes, Kyle Hess, Marsha Hickox, Jeff Hurndon, Tim Jacobson, Jim Lacey, Rodney Manley, David McGregor, Lillie McGregor Photography, Brian L. Morgan, Tim Morse, Melinda Pease Photography

ABOUT THE COVER

A maximum of 10 players are chosen for the Georgia Dugout Preview Magazine cover each year. Generally, one player from each of the seven classifications in the Georgia High School Association (if possible). Three more additional players are chosen. In 2018, we began producing three covers – a metro Atlanta cover, a North Georgia and a South Georgia cover. Players selected are generally regarded as one of the top players in the classification. Coaches may nominate players each year and email them to georgiabaseball2006@yahoo.com

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Dear Readers,

Every year, time just seems to keep getting faster. I guess that is the old adage our parents used to tell us and we didn't believe it back then. I believe it now. It seems like I was just writing to you about our 2017 magazine. Over the past year, we have witnessed changes to our great sport in Georgia.

In 2017, pitch counts were introduced by the National High School Federation and the Georgia High School Association promptly followed. Then, the GHSA moved its state championships to neutral sites for the first time. I was privileged to witness the title games in Rome and they were fantastic. The Rome Braves were excellent hosts. I heard Grayson Stadium and our Savannah Banana friends were excellent hosts, too.

High School baseball in this state continues to rank as some of the best in the nation. We experimented with a few changes this year to recognize more talent on our covers. Instead of 10 players on one cover, we began producing three covers – a Metro Atlanta cover, a North Georgia cover and a South Georgia cover – with 10 players each. Simply put, there is too much talent in this state to limit it to just one cover.

Geographically, the mythical gnat line (which runs from Columbus to Macon to Augusta) is our dividing line. South of the line, you will get the South Georgia cover. North of the line (excluding the Metro Atlanta area), you will get the North Georgia cover. And obviously if you live in the metro area, you will get the Metro Atlanta cover. The inside content is still the same, but the covers are different. We hope you will enjoy this new feature and get to know the athletes in the Big 10 section sponsored by Perfect Game.

I never like to wrap up my letter without thanking my wonderful Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Without him, this magazine would not be possible. And a big thanks to my family (Stacy and Olivia) who put their lives on hold while I spend countless hours producing this publication. I believe this season has the potential to be one of the best we have ever seen.

We hope we have given you the most comprehensive guide to baseball in this state. Let's play ball.

Sincerely,

Tim Morse
Publisher

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On our North Georgia cover is **Front Row** (l-r), Rockmart's Kole Holder, Troup's Ryan Bliss and Dawson County's Palmer Sapp. **Back Row** (l-r), North Oconee's Kumar Rocker, Fannin County's Will Shirah, Loganville's Bay Witcher, Heritage-Catoosa's Cole Wilcox, Gordon Lee's Austin Thompson, Dalton's JP Tighe and Forsyth Central's Ethan Hankins.



On our Metro Atlanta cover is **Front Row** (l-r), Cartersville's Anthony Seigler, Decatur's Jarrett Ford and Redan's Kelvin Smith, Jr. **Back Row** (l-r), Grayson's Parker Meadows, Walton's Luke Bartnicki, River Ridge's Chris Williams, Mount Paran Christian's Nick Swanson, Cartersville's Devin Warner, Brookwood's Will Banfield and South Gwinnett's Cabera Weaver.



On our South Georgia cover is **Front Row** (l-r), Colquitt County's Gavin Patel, Glynn Academy's Will Bowdoin and Richmond Hill's Michael Menhart. **Back Row** (l-r), Bleckley County's Carter Raffield, First Presbyterian Day's Gavin Bloodworth, Cross Creek's David Hollie, Worth County's Hunter Goodwin, Tattnall Square's Kendall Logan Simmons, Wayne County's Ford Townsend and Charlton County's Jack Gowen.



7

Walton's Luke Bartnicki's headlines our All-Classification team that begins on page 7.

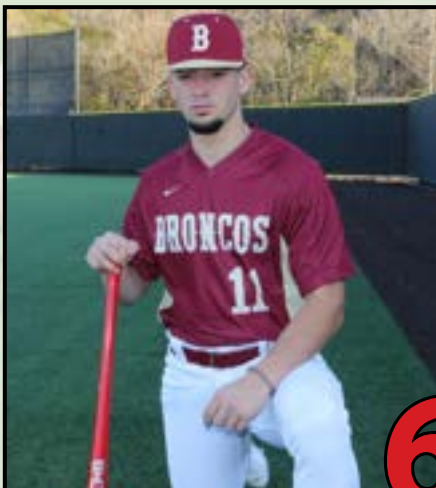


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2018 BASEBALL PREVIEW

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Our Big 10 section presented by Perfect Game begins on page 69.



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Sunbelt Classic still a big deal for college recruiters. Story on page 91.

ALL-CLASSIFICATION TEAM

Georgia is blessed with some of the nation's best baseball talent. These are our picks for the best of the best, regardless of classification.



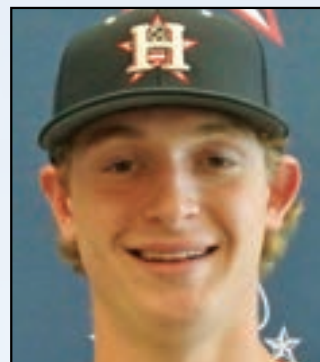
Luke Bartnicki, Sr.
Pitcher – Walton



Ethan Hankins, Sr.
Pitcher – Forsyth Central



Braden Hays, Sr.
Pitcher – Parkview



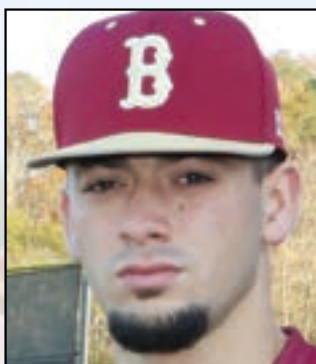
Cole Wilcox, Sr.
Pitcher – Heritage-Catoosa



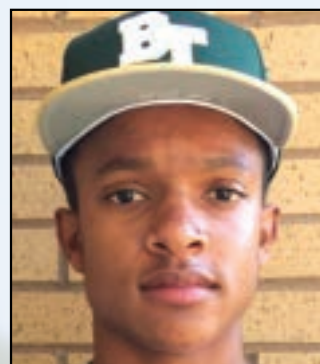
Kumar Rocker, Sr.
First Baseman/Pitcher – North Oconee



Logan Cerny, Sr.
Catcher – Parkview



Will Banfield, Sr.
Catcher – Brookwood



CJ Abrams, Jr.
Second Baseman – Blessed Trinity



Davis Sharpe, Sr.
Third Baseman – Mill Creek



Kendall Logan Simmons, Sr.
Shortstop – Tattnall Square



Ryan Davis, Jr.
Outfielder – Blessed Trinity



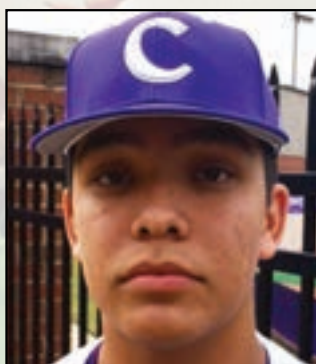
Parker Meadows, Sr.
Outfielder – Grayson



David Hollie, Sr.
Outfielder – Cross Creek



Cabera Weaver, Sr.
Outfielder – South Gwinnett



Anthony Seigler, Sr.
Designated Hitter – Cartersville



Connor Pavolony, Sr.
Utility – River Ridge

Road Warriors

Underdog Etowah fights way to title

By Tim Morse

The Etowah High School baseball team was falling farther in the region standings and head coach Greg Robinson knew something had to change.

So after the Eagles lost two of three in region play to Lassiter, Walton and Roswell, Robinson did the only thing he knew to do – he changed the lineup.

A couple of players decided to quit, so he moved his left fielder to second base, moved his second baseman to shortstop and his shortstop to third base. He also put a sophomore behind the plate at catcher and moved his right fielder into the rotation. Etowah played just well enough to earn the No. 4 seed from Region 4-7A, then the Eagles caught fire, winning every game on the road and needing every third and deciding game – until the state championship series.

When the dust settled, Etowah had won the school's first title and brought the first baseball title to Cherokee County since Canton High won a championship in 1948.

There was nothing dynamic about the Eagles. The blue-collar squad played their best in the clutch and defeated East Coweta, Mountain View, Brookwood and Mill Creek before sweeping region rival Woodstock in the state championship series.

"It was kind of like when a Wild Card team wins the Super Bowl," Robinson said. "They win that first game on the road, then they win that second game on the road and before they know it, their confidence and momentum leads them to a Super Bowl title. That's kind of like what happened to us, and it could not have happened to a better group of young men."

Robinson's team didn't produce gaudy statistics. With the exception of outfielder Drew Waters, who was named the state's Gatorade Player of the Year after the season after batting .510, there were only two other players who hit above .300. But Robinson said the Eagles "threw strikes, made plays, got timely hits and really just enjoyed competing with each other."

Etowah had showed some promise early, defeating eventual 6A state champion Pope and eventual 5A champion Loganville, as well as defeating Class 4A power Blessed Trinity early in the regular season.

He said the players grew closer through team-bonding experiences such as various community service opportunities and team competitive events like bowling. But when the postseason rolled around, the Eagles took their game up a notch.

Robinson said he heard Coastal Carolina coach Gary Gilmore speak at the Georgia Dugout Club Coaches Clinic last January after Gilmore guided his underdog team to a national baseball championship in 2016.

"He said you can make a run if you get in it and we adopted his team's desire to be 'Selfless and Relentless,'" Robinson said. "So we kind of adopted that mantra. Our guys felt like they were never out of it as long as we kept battling and we could get to a Game 3. Playing so many tough out-of-region teams early really helped us prepare for the gauntlet of talented teams we would have to compete against."

After the Eagles survived four postseason series on the road, Etowah learned it would face rival Woodstock for the state championship. The two schools are separated by only two miles. In the first game, Ethan Underwood handcuffed the Wolverines, allowing just a run on six hits to earn the complete-game victory.

But Game 2 featured pitcher Nick Torres and Woodstock's Jared Staples locked in a pitcher's duel that went 11 innings. In the bottom the 11th, Nick Bartosz reached on a single and Waters' RBI triple tied the game at 4, setting up Niko Cho's RBI single to give the Eagles a 5-4 victory and the title.

"I knew before the inning, if Nick got on, it was my time to produce," Waters told the Cherokee Tribune. "When Nick reached, I was confident that I would put a good a swing on something and hopefully score Nick. Unfortunately, it didn't get out, but it was enough to score the tying run. I've played in a lot of big games and I'd have to admit that standing on third was the best feeling of my career."

Brady Jones got the win in relief. Robinson said his team was just blessed.

"If you would have told me before the season that we would be hoisting the 7A trophy, I would have not believed you," he said. "I knew we had some good players and even greater kids that made a believer out of all of us. The season is a testimony as to what can happen when guys are passionate about the game and each other."



Etowah's Drew Waters heads home after a home run in the state championship series against Woodstock.
Photo by Etowah High School



Members of the Etowah baseball team are, Nico Cho, Brandon Marcus, Brant Madden, Kai Lewis, Jackson Sisk, Drew Waters, Nick Bartosz, Andrew Keene, Kevin Jepson, Jackson First, Tyler Freas, Justin Dowdy, Matthew Ridgeway, Ethan Underwood, Nick Torres, Brady Jones, Connor Bowen, Weston Campbell, Brady Barker, Tayden DeVargas, Dustin Frost, Patrick Allan, Jake Lefevers, Carson Kirby, Will Hockman, Christopher Keever, Brooks Mooney. Coaches are Head coach Greg Robinson and assistants Mike Foley, Eric Britt, Dana Gentry and Taylor Becham.

Photo by etowahbaseball.com

CLASS 7A Top 15



PARKVIEW

The Panthers won a national title in 2015, the program's last state championship in Georgia's highest classification. That squad was one of the best in the school's history, but the 2018 version could make its own statement. The Panthers return 10 starters from last season's quarterfinal team that lost a pair of one-run games in the best-of-three series to eventual state runner-up Woodstock. The biggest strength will be another vaunted pitching staff led by left-hander Braden Hays, who won 10 games last spring and finished with a 0.10 ERA. Senior left-hander Robert Bennett also returns after winning five games last year, while the Panthers return lethal closer Jarrett Embry. The offense is capable of putting up big numbers as a wealth of starters are back. Catcher Logan Cerny and shortstop Isaiyah Byars are potential professional draft picks and have dominated in high school. Outfielder Michael Bryant, infielder Ben Markiewicz and the versatile Jonathan French also return. French, a verbal commit to Clemson, is one of the top players in the Class of 2019. The Panthers lost six games in 2017 and as long as they don't beat themselves, Parkview could be hoisting another championship trophy this May.



WALTON

The Raiders will debut a new look this spring. Instead of an lethal offense like the team had the past three seasons, Walton will rely on its lethal pitching rotation this spring. But the offense is still capable of putting up big numbers, led by juniors Pierce Gallo and Luke Boynton. All-American left-hander Luke Bartnicki and Jacob Baldino as well as right-handers Cameron Bloodworth and Jacob Riordan highlight a vaunted pitching staff. Scoring on the Raiders will be a challenge.



NORTH GWINNETT

The Bulldogs won the most games in school history last season with a team full of freshmen and sophomores. That experience will pay off this season. If North Gwinnett can find a few more arms to go along with Walker Cleveland, they could be the team to beat. The offense could be one of the state's best as Corey Collins, Michael Borah and Will Bennett are back in the infield, while Josh Shuler, Lavoisier Fisher and Dalton Pearson return in the outfield. This program will be good for a long time.



NORTH PAULDING

After a run to the Class 7A quarterfinals last season, North Paulding will pick up from where they left off. Only three seniors graduated. The team's vaunted pitching staff of Jakob Brown, Dalton Rhadans and Chandler Wood may be the classification's most underrated pitching trio. If the pitching rotation continues to perform at a high level and the offense is consistent, this team will be very dangerous.



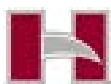
BROOKWOOD

Never count out the Broncos who will be one of the state's top teams again. There are some holes to fill, but the talent is there for another deep run. The versatile Will Banfield returns to give the team a spark wherever he plays, while infielder Angelo Dispigna also returns. The biggest concern may be getting some more pitchers to step forward. Right-handers Trace Twardoski, Derrius York and Matt Morgan are very good, but come playoff time, the Broncos could use a few more arms. If more pitching develops, look out.



MILL CREEK

After a run to the state semifinals last spring, Mill Creek does have some holes to fill. But when you have a versatile player like pitcher/third baseman Davis Sharpe, it does make things a little easier. A veteran senior class returns, they just need to get some experience. If the Hawks can survive a brutal region schedule, they could be dangerous by playoff time.



HILLGROVE

The Hawks are never short on talent and this team is no exception. There are some question marks as the team lost a good portion of its pitching staff, and the offense has some holes to fill. But the roster is full of talent that just needs some experience. Seniors Jared Rine and Will Hubbell as well as shortstop Wade Richardson will keep the Hawks in the chase. Hillgrove is anxious to prove their run to the quarters last year wasn't a fluke.



LASSITER

It's been at least a decade since Lassiter dominated the high school circuit. The Trojans could be returning to their old ways this season. The offense is there for Lassiter to make a strong run with standouts Michael Pisacreta and Jared Hart in the outfield, Billy Zinnershine at shortstop and BT Riopelle back behind the plate. The Trojans just need a few more arms.



ETOWAH

The Eagles were the "feel-good" story of the 2017 season, finishing as the fourth seed from Region 4 and winning every postseason series on the road en route to the state title. The Eagles could be better this season if some pieces fall into place. Pitchers Ethan Underwood and Nick Torres got plenty of big-game experience on the mound. If Etowah can find consistency on offense, they could go a long way.



MILTON

This will be the Eagles' best team since they won the state title in 2013. With the amount of returning talent, Milton can go as far as they want. Under Armour All-American pitcher Ben Harris and Chandler Woolridge will keep the Eagles in the hunt. Meanwhile, talented offensive players Drew Hamrock, Ryan Murphy and Graham Pauley will lead what could be an explosive offense.



WOODSTOCK

The defending state runner-ups lost their top two pitchers - Brant Hurter and Jared Staples. However, the Wolverines return enough talent to make some noise. Catcher Caleb Bartolero is one of the best behind the plate and infielders Brennan Milone and Spencer Keefe give Woodstock some leadership. The Wolverines must find some pitching in order to contend.



ARCHER

The Tigers have enough pitching to contend in Region 8. After Archer was upended in the first round last year by fellow Gwinnett County rival Mountain View, the Tigers believe they have something to prove. If they can find some consistency on offense, the pitching staff of Chase Christopoulos, Jacob Via, Hunter Cain and Casey Jividen will keep them in the chase.



GRAYSON

After winning the Region 8 title last season, Grayson has enough offense to make a run, but the Rams must find some pitching. If Grayson does that, they could be a sleeper. One of the nation's top prospects - outfielder Parker Meadows - will help keep the spotlight on the Rams.



FORSYTH CENTRAL

When you have a pitcher like right-handed pitcher Ethan Hankins, it's hard not to get ranked. Hankins will keep the Bulldogs in the hunt, but some additional players on the talented roster will need to step up to keep Forsyth Central contending for a playoff berth.



LAMBERT

A senior-oriented team returns and the Longhorns will be tough again. If the offense can score plenty of runs, Lambert could be one of the state's sleeper teams. Left-hander Aidan McAllister and right-hander Payton MacPherson lead what should be a tough pitching rotation.

Others to watch: (Alphabetical Order) Camden County, Colquitt County, Lowndes, South Forsyth, South Gwinnett

CLASS 7A PRESEASON ALL STATE

First Team

Name	Position	Grade	School	Comment
Luke Bartnicki	Pitcher	Senior	Walton	Boasts velocity and excellent command
Walker Cleveland	Pitcher	Senior	North Gwinnett	Lefty is hard to hit
Ethan Hankins	Pitcher	Senior	Forsyth Central	One of the nation's best, period
Ben Harris	Pitcher	Senior	Milton	Will keep Eagles in the chase
Braden Hays	Pitcher	Senior	Parkview	LHP is tough to beat
Jared Rine	Pitcher	Senior	Hillgrove	Shuts down the opposition
Ethan Underwood	Pitcher	Senior	Etowah	Showed a lot of promise last year
Logan Cerny	Catcher	Senior	Parkview	Explosive hitter, excellent defender
BT Riopelle	Catcher	Senior	Lassiter	Tough behind the plate
Michael Borah	Infielder	Junior	North Gwinnett	Dangerous hitter, excellent glove
Luke Boynton	Infielder	Junior	Walton	This guy will have a big year
Isaiah Byars	Infielder	Senior	Parkview	As good as there is on the diamond
Ben Markiewicz	Infielder	Senior	Parkview	Solid hitter who doesn't let much get by
Davis Sharpe	Infielder	Senior	Mill Creek	Can pitch, hit and play defense
Billy Zinnershine	Infielder	Senior	Lassiter	Can play just about anywhere
Michael Bryant	Outfielder	Senior	Parkview	Quietly puts up big numbers
Jonathan French	Outfielder	Senior	Parkview	He only gets better
Parker Meadows	Outfielder	Senior	Grayson	An exciting player to watch
Aaron Wainwright	Outfielder	Junior	Camden County	Makes things happen
Cabera Weaver	Outfielder	Senior	South Gwinnett	Laid-back player is tough on field
Trace Twardoski	Designated Hitter	Senior	Brookwood	Does so much well
Will Banfield	Utility	Senior	Brookwood	Not a position he can't play

Second Team

Pitchers – Jacob Baldino, Jr., Walton; Cameron Bloodworth, Sr., Walton; Jakob Brown, Sr., North Paulding; Aidan McAllister, Sr., Lambert; Dalton Rhadans, Sr., North Paulding; Landon Sims, Jr., South Forsyth; Nick Torres, Sr., Etowah; **Catchers** – Caleb Bartolero, Sr., Woodstock; Corey Collins, So., North Gwinnett; **Infielders** – Robert Bennett, Sr., Parkview; Angelo Dispigna, Sr., Brookwood; Pierce Gallo, Jr., Walton; Kyle Martin, Sr., North Forsyth; Nasim Nunez, Jr., Collins Hill; Gavin Patel, Sr., Colquitt County; **Outfielders** – Keyshawn Askew, Sr., McEachern; Nick Colina, Sr., North Paulding; Will Corey, Sr., Kennesaw Mountain; Jared Hart, Sr., Lassiter; Michael Pisacreta, Sr., Lassiter; **Designated Hitter** – Josh Shuler, So., North Gwinnett; **Utility** – Dalton Smith, Jr., Lowndes

REGION 1-7A

Region Favorite: Colquitt County

Players to Watch

- C/OF** – Brooks Bryan, Sr., Camden County
- INF/RHP** – Hunter Dean, Sr., Camden County
- RHP/OF** – Wyatt Fender, Sr., Lowndes
- OF/RHP** – Keyshawn Mays, Sr., Tift County
- RHP/INF** – Cory Newsome, Sr., Colquitt County
- SS/RHP** – Gavin Patel, Sr., Colquitt County
- RHP/INF** – Ethan Phillips, Sr., Colquitt County
- INF** – Raines Plant, Sr., Colquitt County
- INF** – CJ Rose, Sr., Lowndes
- LHP/OF** – Dalton Smith, Jr., Lowndes
- RHP/OF** – Aaron Wainwright, Jr., Camden County
- C/1B** – Blake Webb, Sr., Tift County
- INF/RHP** – Keenan Webb, Sr., Tift County
- OF** – Tanner Wilson, Sr., Colquitt County

CAMDEN COUNTY WILDCATS

Head Coach: Chuck Seymour

Assistant Coach (s):

Todd Bentle, Wade English, Carlton Smith, Victor Smith, Cole Janousek

2017 Record: 23-12

Returning Starters:

C Brooks Bryan (Sr., R/R); INF/RHP Hunter Dean (Sr., R/R); RHP/OF Justin Mesmer (Sr., R/R); RHP/OF Aaron Wainwright

(Jr., R/R); INF/RHP Tim Parker (Jr., R/R); INF/RHP Colten Thrift (Jr., R/R); U/LHP Chris Mobley (So., L/L); 1B/RHP Corey Dowdell (So., R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Jordan Brown (Sr., L/L); OF Mikey Packard (Sr., L/L); INF/RHP Carson Bonner (So., R/R); INF/RHP Kevin Luna (So., R/R); OF/LHP Zach Hayes (So., L/L)

Season Outlook: The Wildcats had an impressive run last spring, and they look to follow it up this season. Eight starters are back, including seniors Brooks Bryan, Hunter Dean and Justin Mesmer. All-state outfielder/pitcher Aaron Wainwright is also back after a strong sophomore campaign.



Brooks Bryan
Camden County



Aaron Wainwright
Camden County

COLQUITT COUNTY PACKERS

Head Coach: Tony Kirkland

Assistant Coach (s):

Will Stuckey, Lee Caquelard, Taylor Barber, Chris Hart

2017 Record: 17-16

Returning Starters:

RHP/INF Ethan Phillips (Sr., 5-11, 165, R/R); RHP/INF Cory Newsome (Sr., 5-10, 190, R/R); SS/RHP Gavin Patel (Sr., 6-0, 155, R/R); INF Dylan Dalton (Sr., 5-11, 175, L/R); INF Raines Plant (Sr., 5-8, 190, L/R); OF Tanner Wilson (Sr., 6-3, 195, R/R); OF Tucker Buckner (Sr., 6-2, 195, R/R); LHP Dylan Collins (Sr., 6-3, 160, L/L)

Other Returning Players: C Mack Crosby (Sr., 5-9, 185, R/R); LHP Carson Asbell (Sr., 6-0, 160, L/L); RHP Jared Horne (Sr., 5-6, 170, R/R); RHP Brandon Dean (Sr., 5-9, 165, R/R); OF/C Tucker Hathcock (Jr., 5-8, 150, R/R); OF/LHP Alex Bledsoe (Jr., 5-11, 155, L/L); INF Reece Bledsoe (Jr., 6-0, 155, R/R); RHP Trace Eakins (Jr., 5-10, 170, R/R)

Top Newcomers: LHP/1B Turner Sircy (Jr., 6-2, 170, L/L); LHP/1B Eli Faison (Jr., 6-2, 195, L/L); DH/OF Chance Sealy (Jr., 5-10, 230, L/R); RHP McKenzie Powell (Jr., 5-11, 165, R/R)

Season Outlook: The Packers have a good mixture of returning talent and should contend for the region crown. Eight starters are back, including pitchers Ethan Phillips, Cory Newsome and left-hander Dylan Collins. Shortstop Gavin Patel returns to lead the offense.



Cory Newsome
Colquitt County



Raines Plant
Colquitt County

LOWNDES VIKINGS

Head Coach: Rusty Beale

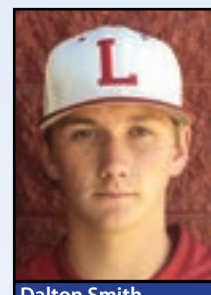
Assistant Coach (s): Adam Amar, Matt Crews, Taylor Wilkins, Jim Henry, Sean Alligood

2017 Record: 19-12

Returning Starters: LHP/OF Dalton Smith (Jr., R/L); RHP/OF Wyatt Fender (Sr., R/R); INF CJ Rose (Jr., L/R); OF Tyson Shaw (Sr., R/R); RHP/INF Palmer Henderson (Sr., R/R); INF Brett Beals (Sr., R/R)

Other Returning Players: INF Tyler Andrews (So., R/R); RHP/INF Cameron Carter (Jr., R/R); LHP Rett McLeod (Sr., R/L); INF/OF Johnny Retterbush (Sr., R/R)

Season Outlook: The Vikings will be expected to contend for the region crown as six starters are back. There are some key positions to fill. The good news is that left-handed pitcher/outfielder Dalton Smith returns after a strong sophomore season last spring. Returning pitchers Wyatt Fender and Palmer Henderson also return.



Dalton Smith
Lowndes

TIFT COUNTY BLUE DEVILS

Head Coach: Kyle Kirk

Assistant Coach (s): Jean Guzman, Phil Salter, Xavier Holmes, Hunter McAllister

2017 Record: 13-17

Returning Starters: C/1B Blake Webb (Sr., 6-2, 190, R/R); INF/RHP Keenan Webb (Sr., 5-10, 200, R/R); OF/RHP Keyshawn Mays (Sr., 6-1, 185, R/R); INF/RHP Mason Avant (So., 5-11, 185, R/R)

Other Returning Players: INF Jack Lambert (Sr., 6-1, 175, R/R); INF Will Weeks (So., 6-1, 185, R/R); C/1B Thad Weldon (Jr., 6-0, 200, R/R); OF/LHP Trey Barfield (Jr., 6-1, 185, R/L); RHP Joseph Pittman (Jr., 6-2, 195, R/R)

Season Outlook: Tift County started slowly last season, but the Blue Devils finished strong. The team will be relatively young this spring. Four starters are back, including a trio of returning seniors – catcher/first baseman Blake Webb, infielder/pitcher Keenan Webb and outfielder/pitcher Keyshawn Mays.

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REGION 2-7A

Region Favorite: Newnan

Players to Watch

- 1B** – Gabe Ahn, Sr., Wheeler
- RHP/INF** – Myles Austin, Sr., Westlake
- INF** – Lawrence Butler, Sr., Westlake
- C** – Ryan Dyal, Jr., East Coweta
- OF** – Nate Richardson, Sr., Wheeler
- C/INF** – El Rico Riley, Jr., Westlake
- SS** – Elliott Schubert, Sr., Newnan
- OF/P** – Hamilton Schubert, Sr., Newnan
- OF** – Wil Willbanks, Sr., Newnan

CAMPBELL SPARTANS

Head Coach: Jeff Searcy (new)
Survey not returned

EAST COWETA INDIANS

Head Coach: Franklin DeLoach
Assistant Coach (s): Brandon Blair, Mark Bowles, Tyler Ridgeway, Roc Coleman, Kyle Bowman, Lee Heaberlin
2017 Record: 26-7

Returning Starters: C Ryan Dyal (Jr., 6-1, 190, L/R)
Other Returning Players: INF Caleb Cashion (So., 6-0, 175, R/R); SS Daniel Smith (So., 6-2, 180, R/R); C Dooley Bunn (Sr., 6-1, 200, R/R); OF/RHP J.J. Freed (So., 6-3, 180, R/R); INF/RHP Jeff Sangster (Jr., 6-2, 190, R/R); RHP Liam West (Sr., 6-3, 190, R/R); OF Nick Daniel (Sr., 6-2, 185, R/R); INF Ryan Griffin (Sr., 6-1, 185, R/R); INF Trevor Crowdis (Jr., 5-9, 165, R/R)
Top Newcomers: RHP Austin Bunn (So., 6-2, 180, R/R)
Season Outlook: The Indians have some holes to fill to approach last year's success. But look for some younger players to step forward and help out. Catcher Ryan Dyal returns to give East Coweta a solid player to build around. The Indians may start slowly, but they will be expected to contend for a postseason berth again.

NEWMAN COUGARS

Head Coach: Marc Gilmore
Assistant Coach (s): Braden Griner, Robert Lewis, Mitch Williams, T.C. Boyd, Scottie Barnett, Brian Morgan
2017 Record: 17-15

Other Returning Players: SS Elliott Schubert (Sr., 6-0, 180); OF/P Hamilton Schubert (Sr., 6-0, 180); Will Willbanks (Sr., 5-11, 195); U Lucas Map (Sr., 5-9, 160); 1B Jacob Blair (Sr., 5-10, 190); RHP Peyton Cooper (Sr., 6-1, 215)
Season Outlook: The Cougars should be in the postseason hunt again as a solid senior class returns to lead the way. If Newnan can find some pitching depth, they should have a chance to improve upon last year's record. Outfielder Will Willbanks (.350 avg., 13 2B) returns to lead the offense.



Will Willbanks - Newnan
 Photo by Tim Morse

PEBBLEBROOK FALCONS

Head Coach: Jonathan Brown
Survey not returned

WESTLAKE LIONS

Head Coach: Kelcey White (new)
Assistant Coach (s): Leon Butts, Chris Atwell, Ralph Troutman, Rodney Henderson
2017 Record: 10-16
Returning Starters: INF Lawrence Butler (Sr., 6-3, 185, L/R); RHP/OF Deon Horne (Sr., 5-11, 170, R/R); INF/OF Tre Wright III (Sr., 5-8, 160, R/R); C/INF El Rico Riley (Jr., 6-1, 195, R/R); INF Miles McCoy (Sr., 5-7, 150, R/R); OF/C Deandre Swift (Sr., 5-9, 175, R/R); RHP/INF Myles Austin (Jr., 6-2, 170, R/R)
Other Returning Players: LHP/OF Markus Latimore (Sr., 5-10, 160, R/L); INF Noah Williams (Jr., 5-11, 170, R/R); OF Dominique Page (Jr., 5-10, 165, R/R); INF/C Jaden Hardin (Jr., 5-11, 220, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP/INF/OF Breon Horne (So., 5-11, 175, R/R); C/1B Damien Whitehead (Jr., 5-10, 170, R/R); RHP/1B/OF Jaylen Nowlin (Jr., 6-1, 175, R/R)
Season Outlook: Former Dutchtown coach Kelcey White takes over at Westlake and inherits a talented group of players expected to contend for a postseason berth. Eight starters are back, including infielder Lawrence Butler, Myles Austin and El Rico Riley. Keep an eye on this program.

WHEELER WILDCATS

Head Coach: Mark Collins
Assistant Coach (s): Hector Villalobos
2017 Record: 14-17-1
Returning Starters: OF Nate Richardson (Sr.); 1B Gabe Ahn (Sr.); INF Brian Yapkowitz (Jr.); OF Luke Simmons (Sr.); 3B Noah Welkis (Jr.); OF Mike Musser (Jr.); RHP Jeff Norman (Jr.); RHP Gage Vailes (Jr.); RHP Leo Giannoni (So.); P Nick Stiles (So.)
Other Returning Players: C Vinnie Lammie (Jr.); LHP Arya Mevada (Jr.); P/1B Caden Felton (Jr.)
Season Outlook: Wheeler will be much better in coach Mark Collins' second season. The Wildcats welcome back the return of 10 starters, including outfielder Nate Richardson. If Wheeler's young pitching rotation develops, the Wildcats could be the team to beat in Region 2-7A.



REGION 3-7A

Region Favorite: North Paulding

Players to Watch

LHP/OF – Keyshawn Askew, Sr., McEachern
RHP – Jakob Brown, Sr., North Paulding
OF/1B – Nick Colina, Sr., North Paulding
OF – Will Corey, Sr., Kennesaw Mountain
RHP – Cole Garrett, Sr., Kennesaw Mountain
1B/RHP – Ryland Goede, Jr., Kennesaw Mountain
INF/C/RHP – Kyle Gray, Sr., Marietta
RHP – Jarrett Guest, Jr., Kennesaw Mountain
OF/RHP – Cameron Hill, Sr., Marietta
3B/DH – Will Hubbell, Sr., Hillgrove
INF/C – Will Ingram, Sr., McEachern
RHP/1B – Julian Jackson, Sr., Hillgrove
RHP – Dalton Rhadans, Sr., North Paulding
SS – Wade Richardson, Jr., Hillgrove
RHP – Jared Rine, Sr., Hillgrove
LHP/OF – Victor Scott, Jr., McEachern
OF/RHP – Matt Terrill, Sr., North Cobb
OF – Christian Tetrault, Sr., North Cobb
RHP – Chandler Wood, Jr., North Paulding
OF – Ethan Wright, Jr., Hillgrove
OF/SS – Griffin Zito, Sr., North Paulding

HILLGROVE HAWKS

Head Coach: David Richardson

Assistant Coach (s):

Wes Ellis, Andrew Alverson, Craig Steedley, Doug Andrew, Ryan Raper

2017 Record: 25-12

Returning Starters:

OF Trooper Vining (Sr., 5-8, 170, R/R); RHP Jared Rine (Sr., 6-2, 185, R/R); RHP/1B Julian Jackson (Sr., 6-7, 190, L/R); 3B Will Hubbell (Sr., 6-2, 180, R/R); C Jordan Powser (Sr., 6-2, 175, R/R); SS Wade Richardson (Jr., 5-10, 150, L/R); 2B Cameron Fiveash (Jr., 5-10, 150, R/R); OF Ethan Wright (Jr., 5-9, 160, L/L); OF Justin Tew (Jr., 6-2, 185, R/R); RHP/OF Deion Walker (Jr., 6-4, 185, R/R)

Other Returning Players: C Jarrett Jenkins (Sr., 6-0, 215, R/R); LHP Spencer Borgel (Jr., 5-8, 155, L/L); RHP Austin Heard (Jr., 6-1, 180, R/R);



Will Hubbell
Hillgrove



Wade Richardson
Hillgrove



Jared Rine
Hillgrove



Ethan Wright
Hillgrove

RHP Brennan Richardson (Jr., 5-10, 150, R/R); OF/RHP Alex McKay (Jr., 6-0, 150, R/R); INF Reid Brown (Jr., 6-0, 200, R/R); C/RHP Zach Stewart (Jr., 5-10, 205, R/R); LHP/OF Fred Wilson (Jr., 5-10, 150, L/L); INF Jack Gilnsen (So., 5-11, 140, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP/OF Max DeJong (So., 6-0, 180, R/R)

Season Outlook: The Hawks made a run to the quarterfinals last year and have a wealth of returning talent. They do have some holes to fill after losing eight seniors from last year. Pitching should be solid as Jared Rine, Julian Jackson and Ethan Wright return. Infielders Will Hubbell and Wade Richardson return to lead the offense.

KENNESAW MOUNTAIN MUSTANGS

Head Coach: George Hansen

Assistant Coach (s):

Rich Oria, Jonathan Henslee, Phillip Nasworthy, Kefla Hare, Doug Golden, Chris Walker

2017 Record: 14-16

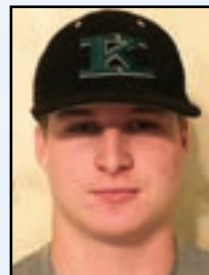
Returning Starters:

CF Will Corey (Sr., 6-3, 200, R/R); RHP Dylan Reeves (Sr., 6-0, 185, R/R); RHP Cole Garrett (Sr., 6-1, 185, R/R); RHP Michael Hostetler (Sr., 6-1, 185, R/R); OF Malcolm Falardeau (Sr., 6-0, 195, R/R); OF Matthew Siragusa (Sr., 6-0, 180, L/R); C Nick Carlin (Sr., 6-0, 170, R/R); C Bradley Whipple (Sr., 6-1, 200, R/R); RHP Jarrett Guest (Jr., 6-3, 180, R/R); 1B/RHP Ryland Goede (Jr., 6-4, 235, R/R); SS Savon Battle (Jr., 5-10, 165, R/R); 2B Justin Barnes (Jr., 6-0, 170, R/R); OF/RHP Grant Moody (Jr., 6-2, 185, R/R); 3B/RHP Taylor Lumpkin (Jr., 6-2, 185, R/R); LHP Dylan Williams (Jr., 6-1, 170, L/L); OF/LHP Gavin Scaggs (Jr., 6-1, 170, L/L); C Reece Schwickerath (So., 6-0, 160, R/R); RHP/3B Brady Schwickerath (So., 6-0, 160, R/R); OF/RHP Chris LoCurto (So., 6-1, 165, B/R)

Other Returning Players: INF Zayd Brannagan (So., 6-0, 160, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP Bryce Tincher (Jr., 6-0, 165, R/R); RHP Ryne Oria (So., 6-0, 160, R/R); RHP Luke Darwiche (Jr., 5-11, 170, R/R)

Season Outlook: Kennesaw Mountain welcomes back a solid nucleus of talent and should contend for the postseason this spring. Outfielder Will Corey, first baseman Ryland Goede and shortstop Savon Battle return to spark the offense, while pitcher Jarrett Guest returns to lead the pitching rotation.



Will Corey
Kennesaw Mountain



Cole Garrett
Kennesaw Mountain



Jarrett Guest
Kennesaw Mountain



Ryland Goede
Kennesaw Mountain

MARIETTA BLUE DEVILS

Head Coach: Phillip Rogers (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Kyle Fleming, Neal Sammons

2017 Record: 6-24

Returning Starters: OF/RHP Cameron Hill (Sr., L/R); INF Genesis Angulo (Sr., R/R); INF/C/RHP Kyle Gray (Sr., B/R); OF/RHP Jalen Parker (Jr., R/R); 1B/LHP George Krivsky (Jr., L/L); INF William Underwood (So., B/R); RHP Hunter Williamson (Jr., R/R)

Other Returning Players: LHP Johnny Luegering (Sr., L/L); C Cameron Dombi (Jr., R/R); INF Schylar Willis (Jr., R/R); INF/OF/RHP Ben Edwards (So., R/R); C/INF Bowen Mayfield (So., R/R); RHP/OF Carlson Reed (So., R/R)

Top Newcomers: INF/RHP CJ Gordon (Fr., R/R); INF/OF Peter Warrick (So., R/R); OF/INF Jordan Ford (Jr., R/R)

Season Outlook: First-year coach Phillip Rogers will try and turn around a Marietta program that struggled last season. The Blue Devils return seven starters and should have a chance to improve upon last season's finish. Seniors Kyle Gray and Cameron Hill return, giving the team a solid pair of players to build around.

MCEACHERN INDIANS

Head Coach: Karlton Schilling (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Zachariah Sparks, Zach Desmarais, Corey Holmes, Jake Burgdorf, Taylor Butler, Shaun Nguyen

2017 Record: 15-15-1

Returning Starters: INF/C Will Ingram (Sr., 5-7, 160, L/R); DH Justin Roberson (Sr., 5-9, 175, R/R); LHP/OF Keyshawn Askew (Sr., 6-3, 175, L/L); LHP/1B/OF Darius Jones (Sr., 5-8, 160, L/L); LHP/OF Victor Scott (Jr., 6-0, 160, L/L)

Other Returning Players: RHP/OF Jhayden Poole (Sr., 6-2, 175, R/R); OF Jordan Jackson (Sr., 5-11, 165, R/R); RHP/1B Kyenan Pascoe (Sr., 5-11, 200, R/R); INF Lorenza Cooke (Sr., 5-10, 175, R/R); INF/OF Malik Evans (Sr., 5-9, 170, R/R); C Tylan Shallenberger (Sr., 5-8, 155, R/R)

Season Outlook: Former assistant Karlton Schilling takes over and inherits five returning starters. One of those is pitcher/outfielder Keyshawn Askew. The senior class is solid and will be expected to lead the way. Will Ingram, Justin Roberson, Darius Jones and Victor Scott are back to lead the offense.



Keyshawn Askew - McEachern
Photo by Tim Morse

NORTH COBB WARRIORS

Head Coach: Tom Callahan

Assistant Coach (s): Mike Turchan, Mike Young, Evan Hester, Joey Cecere

2017 Record: 18-15

Returning Starters: OF/RHP Matt Terrill (Sr., 6-0, 170, R/R); RHP/INF Jonathan Young (Jr., 6-3, 180, R/R); OF Christian Tetrault (Sr., 5-10, 180, R/R); OF Joshua Dixon (So., 5-10, 170, R/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP/1B Gavin Rose (Sr., 6-6, 170, R/R); C Andrew Prather (Jr., 5-10, 170, R/R); INF/RHP Zach Lewis (Sr., 5-8, 165, R/R)

Season Outlook: North Cobb has a good mixture of returning players and should be in the postseason hunt. Four starters return, including seniors Matt Terrill and Christian Tetrault. The Warriors, however, must develop some pitching depth.



NORTH PAULDING WOLFPACK

Head Coach: Dennis Jordan

Assistant Coach (s): Mike Day, Blake Haynes, Patrick Stevens, Chad Jordan

2017 Record: 24-12

Returning Starters: OF/2B Mickey Maguire (Jr., 6-0, 175, R/R); 3B/SS/C Jojo Kelliher (Sr., 6-1, 165, R/R); C/DH Luke Gray (Sr., 6-0, 185, R/R);

OF/SS Griffin Zito (Sr., 5-9, 165, R/R); RHP Jakob Brown (Sr., 6-1, 165, R/R); RHP Dalton Rhadans (Sr., 6-3, 175, R/R); RHP Chandler Wood (Jr., 6-1, 215, R/R); OF/1B Nick Colina (Sr., 6-1, 175, L/L)

Other Returning Players: RHP/OF Mikade Johnson (Jr., 6-5, 180, R/R); OF/1B Peyton Mosely (Jr., 6-1, 175, R/R); RHP Zack Maxwell (Jr., 6-5, 230, R/R); LHP Alex Poff (Sr., 6-0, 170, L/L); 3B Cole Dunn (Jr., 6-3, 190, R/R); OF Zack Bright (Sr., 6-1, 170, R/R)

Season Outlook: After a run to the state quarterfinals last season, North Paulding should be back in the hunt again. Eight starters are back, including pitchers Jakob Brown (10-2, 1.03 ERA) and Dalton Rhadans (7-4, 1.77 ERA). Nick Colina (.348 avg., 19 RBIs), Luke Gray and Griffin Zito return to lead the offense.



Jakob Brown
North Paulding



Nick Colina
North Paulding



Dalton Rhadans
North Paulding

REGION 4-7A

Region Favorite: Walton

Players to Watch

- RF/RHP** – Sean Agostini, Sr., Roswell
- LHP** – Jacob Baldino, Jr., Walton
- LHP** – Luke Bartnicki, Sr., Walton
- C** – Caleb Bartolero, Sr., Woodstock
- INF/RHP** – Cameron Bloodworth, Sr., Walton
- 1B** – Luke Boynton, Jr., Walton
- OF** – Weston Campbell, Sr., Etowah
- INF** – Pierce Gallo, Jr., Walton
- RHP** – Grayson Gladu, Sr., Roswell
- SS** – Tanner Griffith, Jr., Cherokee
- OF** – Jared Hart, Sr., Lassiter
- INF** – Spencer Keefe, Jr., Woodstock
- INF** – Brennan Milone, Jr., Woodstock
- OF** – Michael Pisacreta, Sr., Lassiter
- C** – BT Riopelle, Sr., Lassiter
- SS** – Jackson Sisk, Sr., Etowah
- RHP** – Nick Torres, Sr., Etowah
- RHP** – Ethan Underwood, Sr., Etowah
- SS** – Billy Zinnershine, Sr., Lassiter

CHEROKEE WARRIORS

Head Coach: Ben Sosebee

Assistant Coach (s): Matt Debes, Zack Lemons

2017 Record: 8-22

Returning Starters: CF Levi Mayo (Sr., 5-9, 165, R/R); SS Tanner Griffith (Jr., 5-10, 170, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Christian Escalada (Sr., 5-11, 175, R/R); OF Chad Lessing (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/R); 1B/LHP Matthew Hager (Sr., 5-10, 195, L/L); OF Jack Warren (Sr., 5-9, 165, L/R); INF Gavin Tuck (So., 5-11, 160, L/R); INF Colton Krupica (Jr., 5-8, 155, R/R); C Lucas Campbell (Jr., 6-0, 165, R/R)

Season Outlook: Cherokee begins its second season under Ben Sosebee, and the Warriors should have a chance to improve upon last season's finish. Only two starters are back, but a solid group of underclassmen should contribute. Outfielder Levi Mayo and shortstop Tanner Griffith return to lead the team.

ETOWAH EAGLES

Head Coach: Greg Robinson

Assistant Coach (s):

Mike Foley, Zach Waters, Taylor Majors, Taylor Beckham

2017 Record: 28-16

Returning Starters:

SS Jackson Sisk (Sr., 6-0, 175, R/R); OF Weston Campbell (Sr., 6-0, 170, R/R); OF Niko Cho (Sr., 5-8, 150, R/R); LHP/1B Bryant

Madden (Jr., 6-3, 190, L/L); C Connor Bowen (Jr., 5-8, 180, R/R); RHP Ethan Underwood (Sr., 6-1, 185, R/R); RHP Nick Torres (Sr., 5-10, 170, R/R)

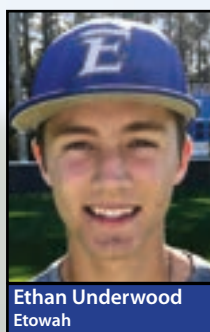
Other Returning Players: C Kai Lewis (Sr., 5-9, 205, R/R); INF Dustin Frost (Sr., 6-0, 185, R/R)

Top Newcomers: OF Tayden DeVargas (So., 6-0, 170, L/L); RHP Brandon Tipton (Jr., 5-10, 170, R/R)

Season Outlook: The defending state champions have some key positions to fill, but the cupboard is not bare. Seven starters are back, including standout pitchers Ethan Underwood and Nick Torres. Outfielder Weston Campbell and shortstop Jackson Sisk return to lead the offense. Look for the Eagles to be in the postseason chase again.



Nick Torres
Etowah



Ethan Underwood
Etowah

LASSITER TROJANS

Head Coach: Kyle Rustay

Assistant Coach (s):

Kurt Rinehimer, Michael Fraker, Brac Barton, Dave Zinnershine, Ray Anderson

2017 Record: 24-10

Returning Starters:

OF Jared Hart (Sr., 6-3, 185, R/R); OF Michael Pisacreta (Sr., 5-10, 160, L/L); C BT Riopelle (Sr., 6-1, 190, L/R); RHP Stevie Szucs (Sr., 6-2, 185, R/R); SS Billy Zinnershine (Sr., 5-10, 160, L/R)

Other Returning Players: 2B Deven Harris (Sr., 5-7, 140, R/R); OF/INF Quentin Cambell (Sr., 5-8, 145, R/R); OF/LHP Jack Connelly (Sr., 5-10, 175, L/L); RHP/3B/1B Mason Kearney (Jr., 5-10, 195, L/R); RHP/1B Ryan Getz



Jared Hart
Lassiter

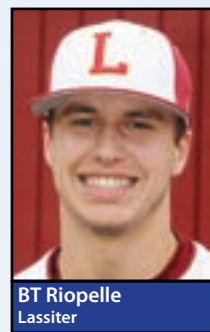


Michael Pisacreta
Lassiter

(Jr., 6-3, 190, R/R); C/1B Matt Butler (Sr., 5-11, 180, R/R); RHP/3B Alex Brown (Sr., 6-0, 170, R/R)

Top Newcomers: SS/RHP Griffin Bennink (Jr., 6-1, 160, R/R); 3B/RHP Adam Love (So., 6-0, 160, R/R); SS/RHP Sam Marques (Jr., 6-0, 170, R/R); 1B/OF Griffin Snyder (Jr., 6-0, 180, R/R)

Season Outlook: If the Trojans can develop some pitching, they should have a chance to contend for the region crown. Offensive leaders BT Riopelle (.410 avg., 21 RBIs), Jared Hart (.369 avg., 8 2B), Billy Zinnershine (.367 avg., 5 2B) and Michael Pisacreta (.387 avg., 9 2B) return to lead the way.



BT Riopelle
Lassiter



Billy Zinnershine
Lassiter

ROSWELL HORNETS

Head Coach: Ben Sutter (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Danny Macdonald, Matt Meeder

2017 Record: 18-15

Returning Starters: RHP Grayson Gladu (Sr., 6-1, 200, R/R); 2B/SS Noah King (Sr., 5-9, 185, R/R); RF/RHP Sean Agostini (Sr., 6-3, 260, R/R); OF Jason Shelton (Sr., 6-1, 210, L/L); RHP Jacob Christner (Sr., 5-10, 190, R/R); SS/OF Jerry Backus (Jr., 5-10, 180, R/R); 3B David Burke (Jr., 6-0, 190, R/R); OF/LHP Luke Ostloff (So., 6-0, 175, L/L); C Riley Decan (Jr., 5-10, 205, R/R)

Other Returning Players: C Sean Lewis (Jr., 6-1, 200, R/R); RHP/1B Matthew Nay (Jr., 6-1, 200, R/R); RHP/1B Aaron Wright (Jr., 6-1, 190, R/R); OF Will Caldwell (Jr., 5-9, 185, R/R); RHP/SS Alex Gruver (Jr., 5-11, 185, R/R); RHP/INF Austin Hunter (Sr., 5-10, 195, B/R)

Season Outlook: Longtime assistant Ben Sutter takes over and inherits a wealth of talent after the Hornets won 18 games last year. Nine starters are back, including top pitcher Grayson Gladu. A strong group of juniors will contribute. The Hornets, however, may still be a year away from reaching their full potential.

WALTON RAIDERS

Head Coach: Shane Amos

Assistant Coach (s):

Matt Staruch, Matt Kelterborn, John Miller, Kevin Johnson

2017 Record: 27-8

Returning Starters:

LHP Luke Bartnicki (Sr., 6-3, 200, L/L); INF/RHP Cameron Bloodworth (Sr., 5-9, 160, R/R); RHP Henry Litman (Sr., 6-0, 165, R/R); LHP Jacob Baldino (Jr., 6-1, 160, L/L); INF Pierce Gallo (Jr., 6-1, 170, R/R); INF/OF John Giesler (Jr., 6-2, 180, R/R); 1B Luke Boynton (Jr., 6-6, 215, R/R); RHP Jacob Riordan (Sr., 6-3, 190, R/R)



Jacob Baldino
Walton



Cameron Bloodworth
Walton



Luke Boynton
Walton



Pierce Gallo
Walton

Other Returning Players: INF/RHP Michael Ferguson (Sr., 6-3, 190, R/R); OF Baker Fullerton (Sr., 5-8, 165, L/L); C Jack Schad (Sr., 6-0, 195, R/R); RHP/OF Justin Repasky (Sr., 5-11, 185, L/L); INF Jaeger Keeline (Sr., 5-11, 170, L/R)

Top Newcomers: INF Ben Anderson (So., 5-7, 155, R/R); LHP/OF Brandon Nikitaides (Jr., 5-11, 160, L/L); C Justin Carr (So., 5-11, 175, R/R); INF/RHP Bobby Spencer (Jr., 6-0, 180, R/R); INF Alex Bennett (Jr., 5-8, 150, R/R)

Season Outlook: Look for Walton to be back in the postseason chase again, especially with a deep pitching rotation led by left-handers Luke Bartnicki (10-1, 0.45 ERA) and Jacob Baldino and right-handers Cameron Bloodworth (5-3, 1.94 ERA) and Jacob Riordan (3-1, 3.60 ERA). Infielder Pierce Gallo and first baseman Luke Boynton are back on offense after strong sophomore seasons.

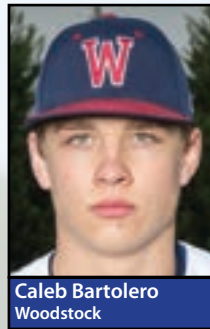
WOODSTOCK WOLVERINES

Head Coach: Jeff Brown

Assistant Coach (s): Ben Abner, Reed Nixon, John Duran

2017 Record: 25-17

Returning Starters: C Caleb Bartolero (Sr., 6-0, 195, R/R); RHP Zach McManus (Sr., 6-1, 195, R/R); OF/RHP/U Justin Bailey (Sr., 5-9, 175, R/R); RHP/U Ethan Foley (Sr., 6-1, 175, R/R); INF Brennan Milone (Jr., 6-1, 175, R/R); INF Spencer Keefe (Jr., 6-2, 200, R/R); LHP Josiah Siegel (Jr., 6-0, 185, L/L); C/OF Cole Haselhorst (Sr., 5-10, 170, R/R)



Caleb Bartolero
Woodstock

Other Returning Players: OF/RHP Alex Hayes (Sr., 6-0, 160, R/R); OF/RHP Aaron Hayes (Sr., 6-0, 160, R/R); 1B Layton Vaughn (Sr., 5-11, 180, R/R); RHP Chandler Koerner (Sr., 6-1, 170, R/R); LHP Nate Shear (Sr., 5-9, 160, R/L); RHP/INF Hayden Harris (Sr., 5-11, 170, R/R); LHP Tristan Young (Sr., 5-10, 195, L/L)

Top Newcomers: INF Cooper Torres (So., 5-10, 170, R/R); OF Preston Suter (Jr., 5-10, 165, R/R)

Season Outlook: After making a run to the state championship series last year, Woodstock has a solid group of returners to help the team contend again. The Wolverines, however, must develop some more pitching. The good news is that catcher Caleb Bartolero and junior infielders Brennan Milone and Spencer Keefe return.



REGION 5-7A

Region Favorite: Milton

Players to Watch

- C – Matty Bapst, Sr., South Forsyth
- RHP – Bowen Bock, Sr., West Forsyth
- 1B – Bradlee Brooks, Sr., Forsyth Central
- INF/RHP – Zach Burns, Sr., West Forsyth
- LHP/OF – Wyatt Crowell, So., West Forsyth
- RHP – Cooper Davidson, Sr., South Forsyth
- LHP – Ryan Ferguson, Sr., West Forsyth
- LHP – Mitchell Gross, Jr., Forsyth Central
- C/INF – Drew Hamrock, Sr., Milton
- RHP – Ethan Hankins, Sr., Forsyth Central
- LHP/OF – Ben Harris, Sr., Milton
- OF – Jacob Holton, Sr., Forsyth Central
- INF – Parker Jones, Sr., Forsyth Central
- OF – Connor Kirley, Sr., West Forsyth
- RHP – Payton MacPherson, Sr., Lambert
- 1B – Kyle Martin, Sr., North Forsyth
- LHP – Aidan McAllister, Sr., Lambert
- C/1B/OF – Ryan Murphy, Jr., Milton
- 3B – Graham Pauley, Jr., Milton
- C/OF – Colin Price, Sr., Lambert
- OF/C – Bradley Prince, Jr., South Forsyth
- RHP/OF – Landon Sims, Jr., South Forsyth
- C – Indiana Stanley, Sr., West Forsyth
- RHP – Cody Westbrooks, Jr., North Forsyth
- RHP/OF – Chandler Woolridge, Sr., Milton
- C – Greg Wozniak, Sr., Forsyth Central

FORSYTH CENTRAL BULLDOGS

Head Coach: Kevin McCollum

Assistant Coach (s): Brian Bull, Dustin Canon, John Arundale, Paul Dees, Greg Parker, Sam Spota, Spencer Transue

2017 Record: 19-13

Returning Starters: INF Greg Tasos (Jr., R/R); LHP Mitchell Gross (Jr., R/L); OF Chase Nufer (Sr., R/R); P Davis Smith (Sr.); RHP Ethan Hankins (Sr., R/R); C Greg Wozniak (Sr., R/R); OF Jacob Holton (Sr., L/R); INF Parker Jones (Sr., R/R); 1B Bradlee Brooks (Sr., R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Drew Harrison (Sr.); INF/OF Jake Bump (Sr.); P Jacob Ryan (Jr.); P Bryan Brock (Sr.); P/3B Jonathan Bergmoser (Jr.)

Season Outlook: Forsyth Central made the state playoffs last year and should make another run at the postseason this spring. Nine starters are back, including a talented pitching rotation led by right-hander Ethan Hankins. If the offense matures, Forsyth Central could go a long way.

LAMBERT LONGHORNS

Head Coach: Rick Howard

Assistant Coach (s): Tom Bass, Lee Fisher, Will Azbell, Kelley Brown, Billy Kieninger, Scott Carlson, Casey Parham

2017 Record: 21-13

Returning Starters: OF Brady Burroughs (Sr., 5-9, 160, L/R); C/INF Jack Fleming (Sr., 6-1, 175, L/R); OF Bobby Gabriel (Sr., 6-0, 185, R/R); RHP Payton MacPherson (Sr., 6-3, 195, R/R); LHP Aidan McAllister (Sr., 6-2, 160, R/L); RHP/INF Cooper McCann (Sr., 6-3, 185, R/R); C Colin Price (Sr., 6-6, 195, R/R)

Other Returning Players: INF Carter Ballstadt (Sr., 6-1, 160, R/R); C/OF Trey Hodges (Sr., 6-1, 160, R/R); INF Gavin Nies (Sr., 5-11, 165, R/R)

Top Newcomers: INF Ben Asher (Jr., 5-10, 180, R/R); RHP/INF Sam Carlson (Jr., 6-0, 170, R/R); LHP JJ DiBennidetto (Jr., 6-5, 170, L/L); INF Nate Gabbert (Jr., 5-9, 155, R/R); RHP/INF Jonathan Hemings (Jr., 6-2, 210, L/R); RHP/OF Blake Nichols (Jr., 6-0, 170, R/R); RHP/OF Nick Sheetz (Jr., 5-11, 170, R/R)

Season Outlook: A strong senior class should help Lambert once again contend for the region crown. Seven starters are back, including top pitchers Aidan McAllister (6-3, 2.60 ERA) and Payton MacPherson (3-2, 2.57 ERA). Look for some younger players to contribute.



Aidan McAllister
Lambert

MILTON EAGLES

Head Coach: Jeff Heusing

Assistant Coach (s):

Matt Hughes, Ed Black, Matt Phillips, Mitch King, Nick Bradshaw, Terry Cole, Kenny Campbell

2017 Record: 16-14

Returning Starters:

C/1B Danny Grillo (Sr., 5-11, 185, R/R); C/INF Drew Hamrock (Sr., 5-11, 180, R/R); SS/RHP Mason Kenney (Sr., 6-1, 190, R/R); LHP Lue Scudellari (Sr., 6-3, 185, R/L); RHP/OF Chandler Woolridge (Sr., 6-2, 160, R/R); OF Mitch Landon (Jr., 5-9, 160, R/R); C/1B/OF Ryan Murphy (Jr., 5-11, 180, L/R); 3B Graham Pauley (Jr., 6-2, 195, L/R); RHP Cole Stupp (Jr., 6-4, 190, R/R)

Other Returning Players: INF Brandon Butterwick (Sr., 5-10, 155, R/R); RHP/INF Carson Davenport (Sr., 6-3, 180, R/R); 1B Walker Davis (Sr., 6-1, 195, L/R); LHP Charlie Estes (Sr., 5-11, 170, L/L); RHP Josh Germany (Sr., 6-0, 210, R/R); 1B/DH John Morgan (Sr., 6-1, 195, R/R); OF Jack Rhodes (So., 6-1, 170, R/R)

Top Newcomers: LHP/OF Ben Harris (Sr., 6-1, 190, L/L); RHP/INF Michael Allegri (Jr., 6-0, 150, R/R)

Season Outlook: Look for the Eagles to be much better in coach Jeff Heusing's second season. A wealth of talent returns, including Under Armour All-American Ben Harris. Pitcher Chandler Woolridge (5-3, 2.64 ERA) returns as well as offensive leaders Drew Hamrock, Ryan Murphy and Graham Pauley.



Drew Hamrock
Milton



Ben Harris
Milton



Graham Pauley
Milton



Chandler Woolridge
Milton

NORTH FORSYTH RAIDERS

Head Coach: Jim Cahill

Assistant Coach (s):

Kyle Counts, Jonny Hernandez, Chris Brown, Kevin McConnell

2017 Record: 9-21

Returning Starters:

C Colin Sanders (Sr., 6-1, 220, R/R); RHP Brody Westbrooks (Jr., 6-3, 190, R/R); OF Carter Mullikin (Jr., 6-0, 175, R/R); INF Garrett Staton (So., 6-0, 160, R/R); 1B Kyle Martin (Sr., 6-3, 215, R/R); OF Clayton Bardall (Sr., 6-2, 215, R/R); RHP Caelan Thomas (Sr., 6-3, 195, R/R); LHP Brice Davis (Sr., 6-1, 190, L/L); LHP Tyler Fairchild (Sr., 6-3, 180, L/L)

Other Returning Players: INF Evan Johnson (Sr., 6-1, 205, R/R); INF Ben Stanford (Jr., 5-11, 170, R/R); OF Charlie Aiken (Jr., 6-0, 175, R/R); C Nicky Dalmolin (So., 6-3, 190, R/R); RHP Tucker Daniel (Sr., 6-1, 175, R/R); INF Miles Hartsfield (So., 5-9, 165, L/R); 1B/RHP Ty Morrison (So., 5-10, 190, R/R)

Season Outlook: A strong senior class returns and should help North Forsyth be much better this spring. Nine returning starters are back. First baseman Kyle Martin returns to lead the offense, while junior right-hander Brody Westbrooks leads a talented pitching rotation. Some underclassmen will also be expected to contribute.



Kyle Martin
North Forsyth



Carter Mullikin
North Forsyth



Colin Sanders
North Forsyth



Brody Westbrooks
North Forsyth

SOUTH FORSYTH WAR EAGLES

Head Coach: Russ Bayer

Assistant Coach (s):

Adam Baldwin, Mike Power

2017 Record: 15-15

Returning Starters:

OF/C Bradley Prince (Jr., 6-0, 185, L/R); RHP Cooper Davidson (Sr., 6-4, 235, R/R); INF Grant Gerberding (Sr., 6-2, 165, R/R); RHP/DH Ben Ferrer (Sr., 6-0, 180, R/R); OF Ryan Finegan (Sr., 5-7, 160, L/L); RHP/OF Landon Sims (Jr., 6-2, 195); INF Drew Becker (Sr., 5-7, 175, R/R); C Matty Bapst (Sr., 6-1, 190, R/R); RHP Peyton Presely (Jr., 6-0, 155, R/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP/INF Keller

Dannenmiller (Sr., 6-5, 230, R/R); RHP/1B Tyler Cowan (Jr., 6-4, 235, R/R)

Top Newcomers: INF Jack Kream (So., 6-1, 165, L/R); OF/1B Ze'Vian Capers (So., 6-4, 180, R/R); RHP Steven Thompson (Jr., 6-5, 220, R/R)



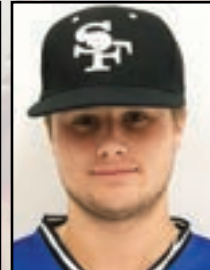
Matty Bapst
South Forsyth



Ben Ferrer
South Forsyth



Grant Gerberding
South Forsyth



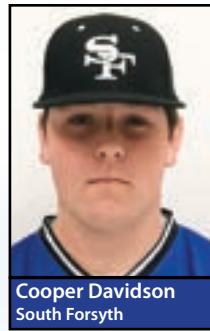
Bradley Prince
South Forsyth

Season Outlook:

The Eagles welcome back the return of nine starters, including a solid group of pitchers. South Forsyth will again challenge for a postseason berth. Landon Sims and Cooper Davidson head up a talented rotation, while Matty Bapst and Bradley Prince return to lead the offense.



Landon Sims
South Forsyth



Cooper Davidson
South Forsyth

WEST FORSYTH WOLVERINES

Head Coach: Mike Pruitt

Assistant Coach (s): Justin Rickett, Jim Ernst, Steve Bohn

2017 Record: 18-15

Returning Starters: 1B/LHP Cade Pruitt (Sr., 6-3, 230, L/L); C Indiana Stanley (Sr., 5-10, 175, R/R); INF/RHP Zach Burns (Sr., 5-10, 180, R/R); CF Connor Kirley (Sr., 5-8, 170, L/L); OF Hunter Martin (Sr., 6-0, 185, R/R); RHP/OF Bowen Bock (Sr., 6-4, 205, R/R); OF/LHP Ryan Gray (Sr., 5-11, 180, L/L); LHP Ryan Ferguson (Sr., 6-0, 180, L/L)

Top Newcomers: LHP Wyatt Crowell (So., 5-9, 175, L/L)

Season Outlook: West Forsyth welcomes back eight returning starters and a talented pitching rotation capable of helping the Wolverines contend for the region title. Senior Bowen Bock, Zach Barnes and Ryan Ferguson return. Catcher Indiana Stanley and outfielder Connor Kirley return to lead the offense.

REGION 6-7A

Region Favorite: North Gwinnett

Players to Watch

- RHP – Alaska Abney, Sr., Mill Creek
- OF – Caleb Barnett, Sr., Duluth
- 3B – Will Bennett, Jr., North Gwinnett
- 2B – Michael Borah, Jr., North Gwinnett
- C/DH – Alek Boychuk, So., Mill Creek
- RHP/INF – Tyler Burnette, Sr., Collins Hill
- LHP – Dominic Canale, Sr., Mountain View
- RHP/INF – Chase Chaney, Sr., Mountain View
- LHP – Walker Cleveland, Sr., North Gwinnett
- C/1B/OF – Corey Collins, So., North Gwinnett
- INF/RHP – Jon-Michael Findlay, Sr., Collins Hill
- CF – Lavoisier Fisher, Sr., Mill Creek
- SS/2B – Matthew Gill, So., Peachtree Ridge
- INF/OF – Dominick McIntyre, So., Peachtree Ridge
- INF/RHP – Nasim Nunez, Jr., Collins Hill
- RHP/C/OF – Jack Oesterle, Sr., Discovery
- OF – Dalton Pearson, So., North Gwinnett
- OF – Andrew Phanmanee, Sr., Mountain View
- RHP – Dylan Schuble, Sr., Mountain View
- RHP/3B – Davis Sharpe, Sr., Mill Creek
- OF/LHP – Ashton Shepherd, Sr., Peachtree Ridge
- OF – Josh Shuler, So., North Gwinnett

COLLINS HILL EAGLES

Coach: Daniel Warzon

Assistant Coach (s): Lance Sparrow, Brandon Garcia, Ross Book, Drew Swick, Todd Webster

2017 Record: 11-19

Returning Starters: INF/RHP Jon-Michael Findlay (Sr., 6-0, 180, R/R); RHP/INF Tyler Burnette (Sr., 6-0, 215, R/R); INF/RHP Nasim Nunez (Jr., 5-8, 145, B/R); C Kody Slate (Jr., 6-0, 225, R/R)

Other Returning Players: LHP/INF Travis Burnette (So., 6-1, 190, L/L); LHP/OF Miles Wilkins (Jr., 5-11, 160, R/L); C/INF Tommy Franklin (So., 6-1, 250, R/R); OF Greg Lake (Jr., 5-8, 170, R/R); OF/LHP Joshua Merritt (So., 5-9, 135, R/L); INF/RHP Jacob Little (So., 5-10, 130, R/R); INF/C Mason Wingate (Jr., 5-7, 145, R/R); OF Cortlin Jackson (Sr., 5-11, 160, R/L)

Top Newcomers: INF/OF Adam Alecia-Brooks (Sr., 5-10, 185, R/R)

Season Outlook: Collins Hill struggled last season and will look to turn things around this spring. Four starters are back, including senior infielder/pitcher Jon-Michael Findlay and infielder/pitcher Nasim Nunez. Pitcher/infielder Tyler Burnette also returns.



Nasim Nunez
Collins Hill

DISCOVERY TITANS

Coach: Brandon Jackson

Assistant Coach (s): Michael Waugh, Christopher Cooper, Kareem Hayes

2017 Record: 5-23

Returning Starters: RHP/INF/C Alexander Haller (Sr., 5-10, 180, R/R); RHP/INF/OF Elijah Jones (Sr., 5-10, 170, R/R); RHP/C/OF Jack Oesterle (Sr., 5-8, 170, R/R); INF/RHP Tyrique Leathers-Stone (Jr., 6-2, 160, R/R); 1B/LHP Mark McGuire (Jr., 6-4, 205, L/L)

Other Returning Players: INF/C Christian Brown (Sr., 6-1, 215, R/R); OF Tashaun Cook (Jr., 5-7, 160, R/R)

Season Outlook: Discovery should have a chance to improve upon last season's record. Five starters are back, including a trio of returning seniors who will lead the way – Alexander Haller, Elijah Jones and Jack Oesterle. A solid corps of juniors will also contribute.

DULUTH WILDCATS

Coach: Ryan Turner (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Orlando Alvarez, Mike Turner, Josh Wright

2017 Record: 2-25

Returning Starters: OF Caleb Barnett (Sr.); C/P/OF Taylor Belloni (Sr.); INF/P James Sattler (Jr.); INF/OF Blaine Galbreath (Jr.); C/P/OF Matthew Helmstetter (Jr.)

Other Returning Players: INF/P Javier Munoz (Sr.)

Season Outlook: New coach Ryan Turner takes over at Duluth and seeks to get the Wildcats' program turned around. A solid corps of returners are back, including a pair of seniors in Caleb Barnett and Taylor Belloni. Some juniors will help out.

MILL CREEK HAWKS

Head Coach: Doug Jones

Assistant Coach (s): Bill Petty, Paul Pierce, Reggie Black

2017 Record: 34-8

Returning Starters: RHP/3B Davis Sharpe (Sr., 6-3, 205, R/R); RHP Alaska Abney (Sr., 6-0, 160, R/R); C/DH Alek Boychuk (So., 6-1, 215, R/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP Brandon Blume (Sr., 6-0, 190, R/R); RHP Justin Parrish (Sr., 6-3, 175, R/R); 1B/OF Adrian Jackson (Sr., 6-1,

210, R/R); OF Brady Longnecker (Sr., 5-10, 160, B/R); DH Hogan Scoggins (Sr., 6-1, 210, R/R)

Top Newcomers: SS Brendan York (So., 5-11, 150, R/R)

Season Outlook: The Hawks made a deep postseason run last year and may be in for some rebuilding this spring after graduating a large senior class. But the roster isn't bare. A solid group of seniors return to lead the way this spring. All-state performer Davis Sharpe returns as well as pitcher Alaska Abney.

MOUNTAIN VIEW BEARS

Head Coach: Jason Johnson

Assistant Coach (s):

Cameron Blinn, Cameron Crawford, Billy Best, Kyle Johnson, Jamie Suggs, Bailey Mixon

2017 Record: 19-17

Returning Starters:

OF Andrew Phanmanee (Sr., R/R); LHP Dominic Canale (Sr., L/L); RHP/INF Chase Chaney (Sr., R/R); 2B Mason Goolsby (Sr., R/R); RHP/OF Cole Johnston (Jr., R/R); C/1B Evan Kimbel (Jr., R/R); C Matthew Lee (Sr., R/R); INF Juan Orjuela (Sr., R/R); RHP/3B/1B Jackson Peck (Sr., L/R); OF Chase Powell (Sr., L/R); RHP Dylan Schuble (Sr., R/R); RHP/INF/OF Garrett Spikes (So., L/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP Gavin Collyer (Jr., R/R); LHP Spencer Hancock (So., L/L); OF Brandon Walls (Sr., R/R)

Top Newcomers: LHP Cole Birkbeck (Sr., L/L); INF Jubriel Felix (Jr., L/R)

Season Outlook: If Mountain View can get its offense to be consistent, the Bears have a good chance to be in the playoffs. A wealth of talent returns, including a strong senior class. Mountain View will have depth on the mound. Left-hander Dominic Canale and right-handers Chase Chaney and Dylan Schuble return.



Davis Sharpe
Mill Creek



Dominic Canale
Mountain View



Chase Chaney
Mountain View



Andrew Phanmanee
Mountain View



Dylan Schuble
Mountain View

(So., 6-0, 175, R/R); OF Lavoisier Fisher (Sr., 6-2, 185, L/R)

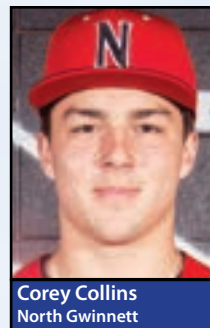
Other Returning

Players: SS Chase McCulloch (Jr., 5-9, 165, R/R); RHP Ryan Watson (Sr., 6-1, 175, R/R); RHP/3B Brandt Pancer (So., 6-2, 180, R/R)

Top Newcomers:

RHP/1B Jayden Perrine (Jr., 6-3, 185, R/R)

Season Outlook: North Gwinnett made a strong playoff run last year. The Bulldogs have enough talent to make another run this year as most of last year's team returns. Eight starters are back, including ace pitcher Walker Cleveland. Corey Collins, Michael Borah, Will Bennett, Josh Shuler, Dalton Pearson and Lavoisier Fisher return to spark the offense.



Corey Collins
North Gwinnett



Josh Shuler
North Gwinnett

PEACHTREE RIDGE LIONS

Head Coach: Nick Hogan

Assistant Coach (s): Tyler Collins, Ryan Douglas, Tyler Chaney, Jim Hunter, Jon Zopf

2017 Record: 13-18

Returning Starters: CF Kohl Nguyen (Sr., 5-11, 170, R/R); INF/RHP Grayson Duffy (Sr., 6-2, 160, R/R); INF/OF Ben Mottet (Sr., 5-11, 165, R/R); LHP Logan Conn (Sr., 6-1, 155, L/L); SS/2B Matthew Gill (So., 6-2, 170, R/R); INF/OF Dominick McIntyre (So., 6-1, 165, R/R); INF Riku Wada (So., 5-11, 160, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF/LHP Ashton Shepherd (Sr., 6-1, 175, R/L); U/RHP Logan Telford (Sr., 6-0, 165, R/R); C Luke Jones (Sr., 6-0, 180, R/R); OF Julian Galassi (Jr., 5-11, 150, L/R); SS Jack Rasmussen (Jr., 6-0, 150, R/R); C Grayson Sunwoo (So., 5-10, 160, R/R)

Top Newcomers: LHP/1B Thomas LeMaster (So., 6-2, 160, L/L); OF John LeMaster (So., 5-8, 130, L/R); OF/RHP Ryan Sonnier (So., 6-2, 170, R/R); RHP Eric Wilson (Jr., 5-10, 155, R/R); RHP Ryan Nauert (Jr., 5-11, 180, R/R)

Season Outlook: A good nucleus of talent should help Peachtree Ridge contend for the playoffs in coach Nick Hogan's second season. Seven starters are back, including a talented senior class. The return of Ashton Shepherd will help. Keep an eye on offensive standouts Dominick McIntyre and shortstop Matthew Gill.

NORTH GWINNETT BULLDOGS

Head Coach: Ryan Moity

Assistant Coach (s):

Joe Molony, Tait Poitevint, Greg Singleton, Gary McBryar

2017 Record: 35-4

Returning Starters:

LHP Walker Cleveland (Sr., 6-2, 165, L/L); C/1B/OF Corey Collins (So., 6-1, 215, L/R); C Michael Goehrig (Sr., 6-2, 205, R/R); 2B Michael Borah (Jr., 5-10, 175, R/R); 3B Will Bennett (Jr., 5-10, 180, R/R); OF Josh Shuler (So., 6-3, 180, L/R); OF Dalton Pearson



Michael Borah
North Gwinnett



Walker Cleveland
North Gwinnett



REGION 7-7A

Region Favorite: Parkview

Players to Watch

- C – Will Banfield, Sr., Brookwood
- LHP/1B – Robert Bennett, Sr., Parkview
- OF – Michael Bryant, Sr., Parkview
- SS – Isaiah Byars, Sr., Parkview
- C/OF – Logan Cerny, Sr., Parkview
- INF – Angelo Dispigna, Sr., Brookwood
- RHP – Jarrett Embry, Sr., Parkview
- C/INF/OF – Jonathan French, Jr., Parkview
- RHP/1B/3B – Jonathan Haab, Sr., Norcross
- LHP – Braden Hays, Sr., Parkview
- INF – Ali LePread, Sr., Norcross
- 3B/1B – Ben Markiewicz, Sr., Parkview
- OF – Tim Martin, Sr., Brookwood
- 1B – Ray Peng, Sr., Norcross
- INF/RHP – Tylor Rowe, Sr., Central Gwinnett
- RHP – Cooper Stinson, Sr., Norcross
- RHP/INF – Trace Twardoski, Sr., Brookwood
- RHP – Derrius York, Sr., Brookwood

BERKMAR PATRIOTS

Head Coach: Jose Fernandez
Survey not returned

BROOKWOOD BRONCOS

Head Coach: Titus Martin

Assistant Coach (s):

Joe Windham, Roger Parham, Chris Paul, Zach Shelnut, Jason Hughes, Cameron Hall, Reeves Blankenship

2017 Record: 29-8

Returning Starters:

C Will Banfield (Sr., 6-1, 210, R/R); RHP/OF/INF Trace Twardoski (Sr., 6-0, 180, R/R); 3B/1B Angelo Dispigna (Sr., 6-5, 200, L/R); OF Tim Martin (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/R); RHP Derrius York (Sr., 6-0, 185, R/R); LHP Matt Morgan (Sr., 5-11, 165, L/L); SS/2B Kameron Guidry (Jr., 5-10, 160, R/R)

Other Returning

Players: RHP Jonah Daiss (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/R); OF Ty King Richards (Sr., 5-2, 145, R/R); OF Jalen Young (Sr., 6-0, 155, L/L); INF Will Mize (Jr., 6-2, 165, R/R); LHP Lucas Brieske (Jr., 6-2, 170, L/L); RHP/INF Alex Flood (Jr., 6-3, 175, R/R); 2B Jack Schuster (Sr., 5-10, 155, R/R); OF Aaron Ashburn (Jr.,



Angelo Dispigna
Brookwood



Kameron Guidry
Brookwood



Tim Martin
Brookwood



Trace Twardoski
Brookwood

5-8, 150, R/R); OF Matt Klug (Sr., 5-7, 165, L/R); C/1B Brandon Taylor (Sr., 5-10, 220, L/R)

Season Outlook: Brookwood will once again challenge for the region crown as seven starters and a strong senior class returns. The Broncos return one of the nation's top catchers in Will Banfield (.409 avg., 33 RBIs). Infielder Angelo Dispigna returns, while pitcher Trace Twardoski (5-2, 0.42 ERA) leads a strong pitching rotation.

CENTRAL GWINNETT BLACK KNIGHTS

Head Coach: Stephen Gronsbell (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Curtis Burke, Juan Perez, Preston Drake, Jarvis Williams

2017 Record: 9-21

Returning Starters: INF/RHP Tylor Rowe (Sr., 5-11, 165, R/R); C Wade Crider (Sr., 5-10, 160, R/R); OF Christian Neal (Sr., 5-9, 160, R/L); OF C.J. Amoussou (Sr., 5-11, 175, R/R); INF/C Jakir Jackson (Sr., 5-9, 255, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF/RHP Jathan Bryant (Sr., 6-1, 165, L/R); INF/OF Michael Serrian (Sr., 5-9, 170, R/R); OF/RHP Stephon Auguste (Sr., 6-3, 210, R/R); OF Allen Alloufhakai (Sr., 5-10, 155, R/R); OF/RHP Joaquin Bueno (So., 6-0, 165, R/R)

Top Newcomers: INF/RHP Joshua Tate (So., 5-10, 160, R/R)

Season Outlook: First-year coach Stephen Gronsbell takes over and inherits five returning senior starters. Central Gwinnett should have a chance to improve on last season's finish. A sizeable senior class gives the Knights a solid nucleus to build around. Infielder/pitcher Tylor Rowe is a player to keep an eye on.

LAKESIDE-DEKALB VIKINGS

Head Coach: Donnie Hayes

Survey not returned

MEADOWCREEK MUSTANGS

Head Coach: Kraig Peebles

Assistant Coach (s): Dustin Afman

2017 Record: 4-21

Season Outlook: The Mustangs will be looking for leaders this spring as coach Kraig Peebles begins his third season guiding the program. Meadowcreek showed some improvement last season and will seek to continue moving forward.

NORCROSS BLUE DEVILS

Head Coach: Aaron Wilkens (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Todd Dyleski, Nathan Toups, Lou Llerandi

2017 Record: 14-15

Returning Starters: RHP/SS/3B Ali LePread (Sr., 6-1, 185, R/R); RHP Cooper Stinson (Sr., 6-6, 235, R/R); OF/RHP Jake Camarda (Sr., 6-2, 175, R/R); RHP/1B/3B Jonathan Haab (Sr., 6-2, 200, R/R); LHP/OF Gabe Grosswald (Sr., 5-11, 165, L/L); 1B Ray Peng (Sr., 5-11, 185, L/R)

Other Returning Players: C Vittorio Corridore (Sr., 5-11, 180, R/R); RHP Tyler Huston (Sr., 6-3, 210, R/R); OF Dohnte Meyers (Sr., 5-9, 165, R/R); 1B/OF Nolan Scourtis (Jr., 5-11, 200, R/R); C Nate Shirah (Sr., 5-11, 165, R/R); INF Cole Hanna (Sr., 5-9, 160, R/R); INF Juan Guerrero (Sr., 5-8, 155, R/R); RHP Chris Pfeifer (Sr., 6-4, 190, R/R)

Top Newcomers: C/RHP Pierce Thomas (Jr., 5-11, 165, L/R); OF Bryant Rhooms (Jr., 6-0, 150, L/L); INF Garrett Murray (Jr., 6-1, 160, R/R); OF Elijah Hawkins (Jr., 6-2, 185, R/R)



Cooper Stinson
Norcross

Season Outlook: Former Northview coach Aaron Wilkens takes over and inherits six returning starters. The Blue Devils return a pair of solid pitching starters in Cooper Stinson and Jonathan Haab. Infielder Ali LePread and first baseman Ray Peng are back to lead the offense.

PARKVIEW PANTHERS

Head Coach: Chan Brown

Assistant Coach (s):

David Reynolds, Justin Bishop, Mark Lowery, Dustin Kline, Mike Cooper, Ellis Appling, Buck McClure, Roy Massey

2017 Record: 31-6

Returning Starters:

LHP/1B Robert Bennett (Sr., 6-3, 190, R/L); SS Isaiah Byars (Sr., 6-1, 190, R/R); OF Michael Bryant (Sr., 6-2, 190, R/R); C/OF Logan Cerny (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/R); RHP Jarrett Embry (Sr., 6-1, 175, R/R); LHP Braden Hays (Sr., 6-3, 190, L/L); 3B/1B Ben Markiewicz (Sr., 6-2, 195, R/R); SS/2B/OF Allan Del Castillo (Jr., 5-10, 160, R/R); C/INF/OF Jonathan French (Jr., 5-11, 190, R/R); RHP Brad Stanley (Jr., 6-0, 165, R/R)

Other Returning

Players: RHP/OF Chris Jernigan (Sr., 6-3, 180, R/R); INF/OF Brian Ketelsen (Sr., 5-11, 160, L/R); INF/2B Chase Mesh (Sr., 6-2, 170, R/R); LHP

Bryce Ridley (Sr., 5-10, 170, L/L); C/1B Will Parker (Jr., 5-10, 180, R/R); OF/RHP Makenzie Pate (Jr., 6-2, 170, R/R)

Top Newcomers: INF/C Koby Ayala (Jr., 5-8, 150, R/R); INF Noah Brown (Jr., 6-0, 160, R/R); RHP/1B Drew DeMasi (Jr., 5-10, 180, R/R); C/1B/3B Stephen Hrustich (Jr., 6-0, 180, B/R); RHP Sean Johnson (Jr., 5-11, 150, R/R); LHP Cameron Orr (Jr., 6-1, 140, L/L); OF Max Pate (Jr., 5-9, 150, R/R); 1B Justin Triplett (Jr., 6-3, 220, R/R); 1B/3B/RHP James Whitmer (Jr., 6-2, 180, L/R); RHP/OF Miles Garrett (So., 6-1, 160, R/R); OF Jonathan Ponder (So., 6-0, 170, R/R)

Season Outlook: Parkview returns the pitching and the offense to challenge for a state title in 2018. Left-handers Braden Hays (10-1, 0.10 ERA) and Robert Bennett and RHP Jarrett Embry return on the mound. Meanwhile, shortstop Isaiah Bryars, Logan Cerny, Jonathan French, Michael Bryant and Ben Markiewicz return to spark the offense.



Robert Bennett
Parkview



Michael Bryant
Parkview



Isaiah Byars
Parkview



Logan Cerny
Parkview



Jonathan French
Parkview



Ben Markiewicz
Parkview



Braden Hays - Parkview
Photo by Tim Morse

REGION 8-7A

Region Favorite: Archer

Players to Watch

INF – Jamal Boykin, Sr., Newton

RHP/INF – Hunter Cain, Sr., Archer

RHP – Chase Christopoulos, Sr., Archer

RHP/INF – Marc Davis, Sr., South Gwinnett

OF – Taylor Dolph, Sr., Archer

OF – Isaiah Fleming, Sr., South Gwinnett

INF – Chris Frazier, Sr., Shiloh

C/RHP – Parker Kauffman, Sr., Newton

INF – Jack Kraus, Sr., Archer

CF/RHP – Parker Meadows, Sr., Grayson

INF – Cody Powell, Sr., Rockdale County

1B/3B – Bailey Shannon, Sr., South Gwinnett

RHP/1B – Owen Simonds, Sr., Rockdale County

P – CJ Thomas, Sr., Newton

LHP – Jacob Via, Jr., Archer

OF – Cabera Weaver, Sr., South Gwinnett

OF – Taylor Wilkinson, Sr., Rockdale County

RHP – Bryant Wise, Sr., Grayson

ARCHER TIGERS

Head Coach: Chris Hays

Assistant Coach (s):

Mike Cavey, Michael Bailey

2017 Record: 23-9

Returning Starters:

INF Jack Kraus (Sr., 5-8, 155, R/R); RHP Chase Christopoulos (Sr., 6-0, 155, R/R); OF Taylor Dolph (Sr., 5-11, 165, R/R); INF Craig Osmer (Sr., 6-2, 150, L/R); RHP/INF Hunter Cain (Sr., 6-4, 230, R/R); LHP Jacob Via (Jr., 6-1, 130, L/L); RHP Casey Jividen (Sr., 6-3, 240, R/R)

Other Returning

Players: C Clayton Logan (Sr., 5-10, 155, R/R); OF Conner Tate (Sr., 5-9, 150, R/R); RHP T.C. Burns (Sr., 5-11, 165, R/R); OF/LHP Trey Messer (So., 5-9, 145, L/L); OF Blake Bortak (So., 5-9, 140, R/L)

Top Newcomers: INF Jordan Nathaniel (Jr., 5-11, 145, R/R); INF Ja'Mir Brooks (Jr., 5-2, 115, R/R); INF Major Hairston (Jr., 5-10, 145, R/R); C Spencer Shaw (Jr., 5-9, 170, R/R); RHP Kendall Johnson (Jr., 5-10, 145, R/R); RHP Luke Davis (Jr., 6-2, 150, R/R); OF Charlie Nabers (Jr., 5-6, 125, R/L); OF Mike Donnelly (Jr., 5-10, 155, R/R)



Chase Christopoulos
Archer



Hunter Cain
Archer



Taylor Dolph
Archer



Jack Kraus
Archer

Season Outlook: Look for the Tigers to make a run in Region 8 as most of their top pitchers – Chase Christopoulos (5-3, 2.42 ERA), Jacob Via (5-1, 2.52 ERA), Hunter Cain (5-0, 1.82 ERA) and Casey Jividen – return. Infielder Jack Kraus returns to lead the offense. A talented senior class will keep the Tigers in contention.

GRAYSON RAMS

Head Coach: Jed Hixson

Assistant Coach (s): Bryan Tolbert, Brian Fiddler, Rudy Smith, Jake Bova
2017 Record: 25-8

Returning Starters: CF/RHP Parker Meadows (Sr., 6-4, 190, L/R); OF Josh Carriere (Jr., 6-1, 180, R/R); INF/OF/RHP Bradley Blalock (Jr., 6-2, 180, R/R); INF/RHP Kendall Wesson (Jr., R/R)

Other Returning Players: INF/RHP Josh Stinson (Jr., 5-11, 175, R/R); INF/RHP Dylan Pines (Jr., R/R); OF/C Jeremiah Smith (Jr., 6-0, 185, R/R); RHP Bryant Wise (Sr., 6-0, 180, R/R); OF Dexter Harris (Sr., 5-7, 140, R/R); OF Jacob Blankenship (Sr., 5-11, 190, R/R); INF Branan McGee (Sr., 5-8, 140, R/R)

Top Newcomers: U/RHP John Anderson (Fr., 5-9, 160, R/R); INF Kevin Ortiz (So., 5-8, 160, R/R); OF/LHP Nick Brown (Jr., L/L); LHP Riley Bishop (Jr., L/L)

Season Outlook: The Rams have a good nucleus of returning players and should contend for the region title. Grayson boasts one of the nation's top prospects in outfielder/pitcher Parker Meadows. The lack of experienced pitching is a concern. Keep an eye on right-hander Bryant Wise.

NEWTON RAMS

Head Coach: Andre Byrd

Assistant Coach (s): David Hill, Isaiah Reese, Warren Williams, David Scharf, Shawn Starks, Antonio Ross

2017 Record: 12-14

Returning Starters: INF Jamal Boykin (Sr.); C/P Parker Kauffman (Sr.); P CJ Thomas (Sr.); OF Khalil Wilcox (Jr.); P Jacob Redman (Sr.); C/P Blake Wilder (Sr.); 1B/P Steven Taylor (Sr.)

Other Returning Players: 3B/P Christian Murray (Sr.); OF Keelon Tate (Sr.); INF Israel Dixon (So.)

Top Newcomers: LHP Christian Davis (So.)

Season Outlook: Newton returns all of its starters from last season and should be much better. Keep an eye on a talented group of seniors led by catcher/pitcher Parker Kauffman, infielder/pitcher Jamal Boykin and pitcher CJ Thomas.

ROCKDALE COUNTY BULLDOGS

Head Coach: Kevin Dawkins

Assistant Coach (s): Ramon Bailey, Harrison Boyd

2017 Record: 18-10

Returning Starters: OF Taylor Wilkinson (Sr., 5-9, 175, R/R); RHP/1B Owen Simonds (Sr., 6-1, 185, R/R); INF Cody Powell (Sr., 5-9, 175, R/R); C Brandon Lawrence (So., 6-0, 195, R/R); U Christien West (Jr., 6-1, 200, R/R); 3B Darius Williams (Jr., 6-2, 185, R/R); 1B/3B Corbin Shaw (So., 6-2, 205, R/R); INF Jordan Rome (Jr., 5-10, 175, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Jabari Simmons (So., 5-10, 175, R/R); C/RHP Bryce King (Jr., 6-2, 185, R/R); RHP Jaylon Teague (Jr., 6-0, 200, R/R)

Top Newcomers: INF Champion Robbins (Sr., 6-2, 205, R/R); RHP Ian Alonso (So., 5-10, 185, R/R); INF Chandler Peters (So., 5-9, 175, R/R)

Season Outlook: The Bulldogs have eight returning starters and should be in the postseason chase again. Offensive leaders Taylor Wilkinson (.373 avg.) and Cody Powell (.322 avg.) return, while right-hander Owen Simonds returns to lead the pitching staff.

SHILOH GENERALS

Head Coach: Reggie Ingram (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Chris Polk, Matt Nesbitt

2017 Record: 6-24

Returning Starters: OF Jase Ivey (Sr., 5-10, 180, R/R); INF Chris Frazier (Sr., 6-0, 180, R/R); INF Greg Thornton (Jr., 5-7, 170, R/R); OF Victor Deras (Jr., 5-6, 160, L/L); C Shane Knowles (Jr., 5-7, 170, R/R); 1B/3B James Little (So., 6-1, 175, R/R); RHP/INF Sean Anderson (So., 5-6, 170, R/R)

Season Outlook: Former coach Reggie Ingram returns to Shiloh and inherits seven returning starters. The senior class is small and some underclassmen will need to step forward. Infielder Chris Frazier returns, giving the Generals a solid player to build around.

SOUTH GWINNETT COMETS

Head Coach: Steve Teschner

Assistant Coach (s): Clint Edwards, Brian Albury, Willie Carter, Matt Adams

2017 Record: 14-14

Returning Starters: OF Cabera Weaver (Sr., 6-3, 180); RHP/INF Marc Davis (Sr., 6-2, 185); 1B/3B Bailey Shannon (Sr., 6-4, 185); OF Isaiah Fleming (Sr., 6-0, 170); RHP/OF Jackson McCarthy (Sr., 5-11, 160); RHP Levi Byrd (Sr., 6-0, 175); RHP/INF Corey Farrow (Sr., 5-9, 140); RHP Hunter Mooror (Sr., 6-1, 195);

Other Returning Players: OF Mason Snodgrass (Sr., 5-11, 185); C Jared Smith (Sr., 5-6, 150); 1B/3B/RHP Dylan Capps (Sr., 6-2, 215); U Jairues Smith (Sr., 5-10, 155); RHP Cole Thompkins (Jr., 6-0, 160); U Corey Lee (So., 5-10, 160); OF Derek Billings (So., 6-3, 200)

Top Newcomers: C Andreaus Lewis (Fr., 5-8, 165); RHP Andrew Lewis (Fr., 5-11, 160)

Season Outlook: South Gwinnett welcomes back eight returning starters and should contend for the playoffs this spring. Keep an eye on outfielder Cabera Weaver, one of the nation's top prospects. Infielder Bailey Shannon, pitcher/infielder Marc Davis and outfielder Isaiah Fleming also return.



Sweet Redemption

Sour ending in 2016 propels Pope to championship run

By Tim Morse

Pope High School carried the sting of losing in the 2016 state baseball championship series to rival Walton into the offseason. The more Greyhound players tried to forget about it, the more it seemed to surface.

At Jeff Rowland Field at Pope High, Walton swept past the Greyhounds in the state championship series in Georgia's highest classification. And it wasn't just getting swept that fueled the team as much as how it ended.

After Walton won Game 1, 11-1, the Raiders scored two runs in the bottom of the seventh on a walkoff single from Jason Avers to win 5-4, denying the Greyhounds a championship.

Then the players had to watch their biggest rivals celebrate winning the title on their home field.

"It was playing on our own field and losing," said Pope pitcher Chase Smith, who graduated. "We just wanted to come back and win it."

Pope did just that, using a strong 1-2 pitching combination of Ryan Webb and Smith to win its region, then the Greyhounds lost just one game in the postseason en route to the school's third state championship since 2009.

The players worked hard through the offseason, staying focused and hoping to forget about the sour ending of 2016.

The Greyhounds may not have been known for their offense, but they were content to score a handful of runs by playing small-ball and using timely hits, then let their pitching staff do the rest.

"We had a very strong, close senior group and they were kind of determined," Pope coach Jeff Rowland said. "After last year (2016), they were determined to not only get back here (state championship series) but win it."

Pope (34-6) lost just five games during the regular season, two of which were to larger classification schools Etowah and Walton. They opened by winning 19 of 20 games.

The Greyhounds lost a couple of games late in the regular season before making a strong run through the playoffs.

"They were just determined," Rowland said. "Experience is big. We had a lot of guys that had played a lot of big games and they didn't get rattled. We did hit a little bit of a lull, but I think they had already started looking to the playoffs honestly. When we got there, it was like they hit another gear."

They swept Creekview and Houston County before needing three games to eliminate Dalton. They swept River Ridge in the semifinals before taking a pair from Lee County in the championship series at State Mutual Stadium in Rome to win their first title since 2013.

"I think it was such a low (for us) ... we just wanted to get back and reach that high again," junior infielder Buddy Floyd said. "We came together and it was just special how we came back."

Special enough to hoist another state championship trophy.



Pitcher Ryan Webb throws in the state championship series against Lee County.
Photo by Tim Morse



Members of the Pope baseball team are, **Front Row** (l-r), Noah Estroff, Antonio Jareno, Tanner Huyck, Chase Smith, Ryan Webb, Reid Robertson, Sammy Cohen, Connor Frost, Scotty LeSieur, Jared Miller. **Back Row** (l-r), Assistant coach Kenny Lotz, Coach Jeff Rowland, Caden Smith, Assistant coach Daryl Zarbnisky, Jake Pralgo, Jordan Butler, Max Pralgo, Jackson Brown, Parker Orr, Grayson Caldwell, Andrew Herlitz, Buddy Floyd, Michael Wynne, Will Lantis, Harris East, Assistant coach Chris Turco, Assistant coach Brandon Martin, Assistant coach Al Savransky, Assistant coach Mike Nelson.
Photo by Tim Morse



Ryan Webb (14) and Parker Orr (21) pose with the state championship trophy.
Photo by Tim Morse



Pope catcher Parker Orr (21) hoists pitcher Chase Smith as Caden Smith and Scotty LeSieur (20) storm the mound to celebrate after beating Lee County to win the Class 6A state title.
Photo by Tim Morse

Class 6A Top 15



RIVER RIDGE

The Knights enter the 2018 season in uncharted territory – a loaded team good enough to win a state title. This season, no question, should be the best Knights team in school history. And River Ridge's positive momentum started when they finished second last year in the brutal Region 6-6A, and they made the quarterfinals of the state playoffs. They took eventual state champion Pope to a decisive third game before falling.

The Knights return an explosive offense led by catcher Connor Pavolony, outfielder Nick Blubaugh and infielders Branson Bowling and Cael Chatham. A senior-oriented team will help keep the Knights focused and on track.

On the mound, ace left-hander Chris Williams returns as well as junior Ethan Anderson.

Last season, River Ridge watched as fellow Cherokee County rivals Etowah and Woodstock played for the Class 7A title. If all the pieces fall into place this spring, River Ridge could be hoisting its first state championship trophy.



POPE

The Greyhounds rode a strong pitching rotation to the Class 6A state title last year. That staff is gone, leaving Pope with just a handful of returning starters. The offense should be enough to help Pope make a deep postseason run. However, the pitching rotation must mature quickly. By postseason time, Pope should be in the hunt.



LEE COUNTY

The defending state runner-ups lost some talent, but a wealth of talented underclassmen should help the Trojans pick up from where they left off. Lee County will miss all-state performer Josh Hatcher, but the pitching rotation is in good hands with Gavin Paul and Layne Wiard. Offensive leaders Garret Suiter and Jonathon Logsdon will provide veteran leadership. This blue-collar team will be tough.



WINDER-BARROW

The Bulldogs were loaded in 2017 and fell in the second round of the Class 6A playoffs. The cupboard is not bare. A wealth of young talent will help keep Winder-Barrow in the hunt. If the team matures, they could make a statement come postseason time.



GAINESVILLE

The Red Elephants suffered an un-Gainesville-like first-round playoff exit in 2017. Gainesville should be back among the state's elite this spring with a heavy senior class led by the versatile Banks Griffith. Seniors Collier Scott and Jared Smith are also back. The veteran leadership will help the Red Elephants go a long way.



ALLATOONA

The Buccaneers made the state quarterfinals last year before a pair of one-run losses to Johns Creek soured Allatoona's season. The Bucs suffered some heavy graduation losses, but a chunk of talent returns. Allatoona should be able to score plenty of runs as catcher David Smith and shortstop Blake Evans return. The versatile Payton Eeles is also back. The Bucs' pitching staff just needs to mature quickly.



DALTON

The Catamounts have posted back-to-back 24-win seasons. Coach Rhett Parrott has built a program that seems to continue reloading. Dalton lost some very good players to graduation last year, but there is enough talent returning to keep the Catamounts among the state's elite. Catcher JP Tighe, Harrison Hughes and Harrison Norman return to provide veteran leadership.



HARRISON

The Hoyas lost Justin Fields, a five-star football prospect who decided to graduate early and enroll in college. But Harrison returns two of its top pitchers in Peyton Berry and Matthew Bollenbacher. The senior class is small, but don't count this team out. Harrison and coach Mark Elkins always seem to mature at the right time.



GLYNN ACADEMY

The Terrors return pitcher Will Bowdoin and outfielder Randon Jernigan, two of the state's more-exciting players. This could be Glynn Academy's best team in at least a decade. There is enough senior leadership to make first-year coach Trent Mongero's transition an easy one.



RICHMOND HILL

The Wildcats showed flashes of promise last season and should reach their full potential this season. Pitching will be the backbone as right-hander Michael Menhart, Kasey Green and Jackson Finley will make life tough for the opposition. This team will be fun to watch.



JOHNS CREEK

The Gladiators may have some holes to fill after a run to the state semifinals last year, but don't sleep on Johns Creek. Pitcher Hayden McIlwaine is back and the Gladiators return a pair of veteran leaders in Chaz Bertolani and Matt Gravely. If some pitchers mature and develop, look out.



ALPHARETTA

After barely missing out on the playoffs last year in brutal Region 7-6A, the Raiders will be back this season. And they will be trouble, especially with a lethal pitching duo of Noah Mendlinger and Charlie Goldstein. This team has the potential to be very dangerous.



GREENBRIER

The Wolfpack lost in the second round of the state playoffs in what many labeled as a rebuilding season. Some younger players stepped up and Greenbrier enters the 2018 season with promise. All-state players Matthew Chester and Bryce Melear will help the Wolfpack make a statement.



ALEXANDER

The Cougars made the third round of the state playoffs last season and seek to capitalize on that momentum. A strong pitching staff will help Alexander contend. If the offense can perform consistently, the Cougars will be a tough team to handle.



NORTHVIEW

The Titans lost a bunch of players from last season, but they do return one of the state's top pitcher-catcher duos in Colton McDaniel and Michael Trautwein. Some underclassmen will need to step up in a hurry. The talent is there.

Others to watch: (Alphabetical Order) Cambridge, Dacula, Houston County, Lakeside-Evans, Northgate, Stephenson, Tucker, Valdosta

CLASS 6A PRESEASON ALL STATE

First Team

Name	Position	Grade	School	Comment
Peyton Berry	Pitcher	Senior	Harrison	Can take over the game
Matthew Bollenbacher	Pitcher	Senior	Harrison	Quietly gets the job done
Will Bowdoin	Pitcher	Senior	Glynn Academy	Veteran makes hitters look bad
Nathan Mapstone	Pitcher	Senior	Alexander	Tough guy to beat
Colton McDaniel	Pitcher	Senior	Northview	Won 11 games last season
Noah Mendlinger	Pitcher	Senior	Alpharetta	Good at everything he does
Michael Menhart	Pitcher	Senior	Richmond Hill	He just keeps winning games
JP Tighe	Catcher	Senior	Dalton	Top catcher makes pitchers look good
Michael Trautwein	Catcher	Senior	Northview	One of the state's best, period
Blake Evans	Infielder	Senior	Allatoona	Smooth defender is also excellent hitter
Buddy Floyd	Infielder	Junior	Pope	Provides a major spark on offense
Banks Griffith	Infielder	Senior	Gainesville	There's not much he can't do
Harrison Hughes	Infielder	Senior	Dalton	Provides offensive spark
Caden Smith	Infielder	Junior	Pope	This guy is only going to get better
Zack Smith	Infielder	Junior	Winder-Barrow	Makes things happen on offense
Matthew Chester	Outfielder	Senior	Greenbrier	Provides spark on offense
Trevon Flowers	Outfielder	Senior	Tucker	All-around good player
Randon Jernigan	Outfielder	Senior	Glynn Academy	Speedster makes offense go
Caleb Ramsey	Outfielder	Senior	Heritage-Conyers	Can hit as good as anyone
Chris Williams	Outfielder	Senior	River Ridge	Standout also a dominating pitcher
David Smith	Designated Hitter	Senior	Allatoona	Can hit for contact or power
Connor Pavolony	Utility	Senior	River Ridge	Does so much well

Second Team

Pitchers – Will Childers, Jr., Lakeside-Evans; Charlie Goldstein, Jr., Alpharetta; Bryce Melear, Jr., Greenbrier; Gavin Paul, Sr., Lee County; Chandler Ring, Sr., Houston County; Ashton Sturgell, Sr., Evans; Layne Wiard, Sr., Lee County; **Catchers** – Chaz Bertolani, Sr., Johns Creek; Garret Suiter, Sr., Lee County; **Infielders** – David Crawford, Sr., Mundy's Mill; Matt Gravely, Sr., Johns Creek; Jonathan Logsdon, Sr., Lee County; Cory McCann, Jr., Valdosta; Santiago Montiel, Sr., Alpharetta; Harrison Norman, Sr., Dalton; **Outfielders** – Nick Blubaugh, Sr., River Ridge; Sam Darling, Jr., Winder-Barrow; Trace Jeffers, Jr., Winder-Barrow; Ga'von Wray, Jr., Stephenson; Justin Wroblewski, Sr., Sequoyah; **Designated Hitter** – Tyler Tolve, Sr., Sprayberry; **Utility** – Payton Eeles, Sr., Allatoona

REGION 1-6A

Region Favorite: Lee County

Players to Watch

P/INF – Jude Ard, Jr., Valdosta
RHP/SS/OF – Chandler Dawson, Jr., Houston County
C/INF – Justin Doscher, Sr., Valdosta
SS/RHP – Dylan Franks, Sr., Northside-Warner Robins
RHP – Reid Hanson, Sr., Lee County
LHP/1B – Cameron Jones, Jr., Houston County
3B/SS – Jonathan Logsdon, Sr., Lee County
OF/RHP – Austin Mathews, Sr., Northside-Warner Robins
INF/RHP – Cory McCann, Jr., Valdosta
LHP – Gavin Paul, Sr., Lee County
2B – Jacob Profit, So., Houston County
RHP – Chandler Ring, Sr., Houston County
P/INF – Avery Stephens, Jr., Valdosta
C – Garret Suiter, Sr., Lee County
SS/RHP – Wade Sumner, Sr., Coffee
RHP – Layne Wiard, Sr., Lee County

COFFEE TROJANS

Head Coach: Sy Jones (new)
Assistant Coach (s): Bob Jones, Hunter Ross, Hill Thomas
2017 Record: 13-19
Returning Starters: SS/RHP Wade Sumner (Sr., 6-0, 185, R/R); 3B/RHP Hayden Skipper (Sr., 5-10, 170, R/R); 2B/RHP Jose Rodriguez (Sr., 5-9, 150, R/R); OF/RHP Chad Hutto (Sr., 6-1, 215, R/R)
Other Returning Players: C Gant Vining (Sr., R/R); INF Nolan Wood (Sr., B/R); C Connor Watson (Sr., R/R); OF Nick Griffin (Sr., R/R); RHP/OF Justin Tarver (Sr., R/R); RHP Cole Giddens (Sr., R/R)
Top Newcomers: SS Garrett Overstreet (Jr., R/R); OF Jayce Moore (Jr., L/L); 3B Clayton Rockett (Jr., R/R); OF Brady Courson (Jr., R/R); C Landon Freeman (Jr., R/R)
Season Outlook: Former First Presbyterian Day assistant Sy Jones takes over at Coffee and inherits a talented group of seniors. Four starters are back. One of them is shortstop/pitcher Wade Sumner. The Trojans could be a team to look out for later this spring.

HOUSTON COUNTY BEARS

Head Coach: Jason Brett
Assistant Coach (s): Matt Hopkins, Chris Harrelson, Jared Allen, Randy Jones

2017 Record: 16-16

Returning Starters: LHP/1B Cameron Jones (Jr., 6-0, 160, R/L); RHP/SS/OF Chandler Dawson (Jr., 6-1, 170, R/R); 2B Jacob Profit (So., 5-7, 140, R/R); C Dillon Toms (Sr., 5-9, 160, R/R); SS Logan Morris (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/R); RHP Chandler Ring (Sr., 6-0, 210, R/R); RHP/1B/OF Corbet Luna (Jr., 6-1, 210, L/R); U Connor Martin (Sr., 5-9, 165, R/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP/1B Jackson Jones (Sr., 6-6, 205, R/R); OF Jake Maddox (Sr., 5-11, 170, R/R); 1B RJ Preston (Sr., 6-1, 230, R/R); 2B Tanner Whitford (Sr., 6-0, 180, R/R); RHP/3B Blake King (Jr., 5-11, 185, R/R); 3B/2B/SS Bryant Rowell (Jr., 5-10, 160, R/R)

Top Newcomers: U Dylan Tabor (Jr., 5-9, 150, R/R); RHP/3B Russell Simmons (Jr., 6-0, 165, R/R)

Season Outlook: Houston County won 16 games in what was supposed to be a rebuilding season in 2017. Look for the Bears to challenge for the region title this spring. Eight starters are back, including pitchers Chandler Ring and Chandler Dawson. Jacob Profit returns to lead the offense.



Chandler Ring
Houston County

LEE COUNTY TROJANS

Head Coach: Brandon Brock

Assistant Coach (s):

Brian Trivette, Kyle Keen, Eric Watson, Dwayne Suggs, Barrett Powell, Matt Suggs, Preston Lowther

2017 Record: 29-13

Returning Starters: C/RHP/2B Garret Suiter (Sr., 5-8, 155, R/R); 3B/SS Jonathan Logsdon (Sr., 5-11, 160, R/R); LHP Gavin Paul (Sr., 6-4, 200, L/L); RHP Layne Wiard (Sr., 6-2, 180, R/R); 2B/OF Chris Monzon (Sr., 5-10, 170, R/R); RHP Reid Hanson (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/R); SS Spencer Hanson (Jr., 5-10, 160, R/R)

Other Returning

Players: RHP/OF Zach Parrish (Sr., 5-11, 175, R/R); OF Drew Feagans (Sr., 5-11, 165, R/R); 1B/C/DH Will Lang (Sr., 6-1, 190, R/R); RHP Tyler Ross (Sr., 6-3, 160, R/R); LHP Jacob Seymour (Sr., 5-7, 140, L/L)

Top Newcomers: RHP/OF Matt Cooper (Jr., 6-4, 185, R/R); RHP/OF Brian Myler (Jr., 6-2, 170, R/R); LHP/1B/DH Jacob Barwick (Jr., 6-1, 225, L/L); RHP/C/U Logan Goff (Jr., 5-11, 165, R/R); RHP/C Seth Nelson (So., 5-9, 155, R/R)

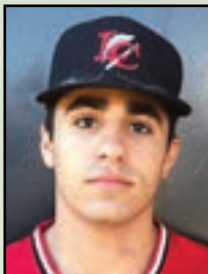
Season Outlook: After a run to the state championship series last year, Lee County has some key



Reid Hanson
Lee County



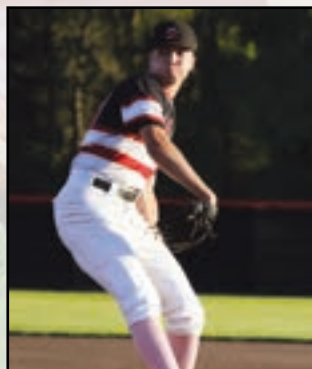
Jonathan Logsdon
Lee County



Chris Monzon
Lee County

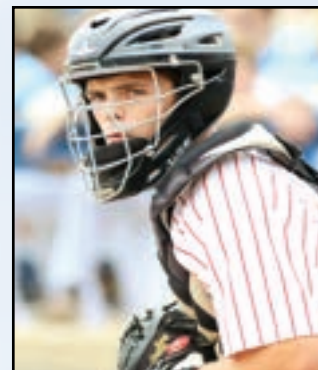


Layne Wiard
Lee County



Gavin Paul - Lee County
Photo by Tim Morse

positions to fill. But the cupboard isn't bare. Pitchers Gavin Paul (3-2, 2.30 ERA) and Layne Wiard (5-2, 1.50 ERA) lead a solid rotation. Meanwhile, catcher Garret Suiter (.345 avg., 28 RBIs) and Jonathan Logsdon (.300 avg.) are back to lead the offense.



Garret Suiter - Lee County
Photo by Tim Morse

NORTHSIDE-WARNER ROBINS EAGLES

Head Coach: Mark Estes

Assistant Coach (s): Tyler Kinsler, Dyron Adams, Zack Coatney

2017 Record: 11-18

Returning Starters: OF/RHP Alijah McGhee (Sr., 6-2, 190, R/R); SS/OF/RHP Jordan Franks (Sr., 5-9, 160, R/R); OF Matt Anderson (Sr., 5-10, 180, R/R); 3B Darius Clarrington (Sr., 6-0, 165, R/R); C/RHP Hunter Price (Jr., 6-0, 180, R/R); OF/RHP Austin Mathews (Sr., 6-2, 190, R/R); SS/OF/RHP Dylan Franks (So., 6-1, 170, R/R)

Other Returning Players: 2B/SS Javier Rodriguez (Jr., 5-7, 150, R/R); RHP Ross McDaniel (Sr., 5-8, 160, R/R)

Top Newcomers: INF/RHP Tyler Wilson (So., 6-0, 155, R/R); 1B/RHP Hamilton Mason (So., 6-2, 175, R/R); C Mitchell Upshaw (So., 5-9, 175, R/R)

Season Outlook: A strong corps of returning seniors will lead the way for Northside. If the Eagles can find some consistent pitching, they should contend for the postseason. Offensive leaders Austin Mathews (.300 avg., 15 RBIs) and Dylan Franks (.316 avg., 13 RBIs) return to lead the team.

VALDOSTA WILDCATS

Head Coach: Brad Porter (new)

Assistant Coach (s):

Jonathan Oliver, Keith McConnehead, Clay Brindger, Cam Cain, Joseph Wilson, Israel Troupe

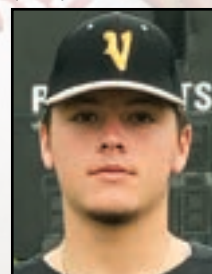
2017 Record: 21-11

Returning Starters: INF/P Cory McCann (Jr.); P/INF Avery Stephens (Jr.); P/INF Jude Ard (Jr.); 1B/DH Kody Noviello (Sr.); C/INF Dustin Doscher (Sr.)

Other Returning Players: P/OF Noah Richards (Sr.); INF Eric Posas (Sr.)

Season Outlook: New coach Brad Porter takes over at Valdosta and

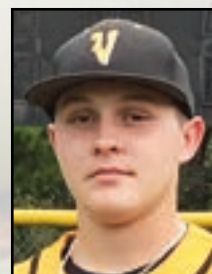
inherits a young but talented squad. Some key positions need to be filled, but pitching should be a strength as Avery Stephens and Jude Ard anchor a solid rotation. Junior Cory McCann returns to lead the offense.



Jude Ard
Valdosta



Dustin Doscher
Valdosta



Cory McCann
Valdosta



Avery Stephens
Valdosta



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REGION 2-6A

Region Favorite: Glynn Academy

Players to Watch

P/OF – Jeremy Altman, Sr., Glynn Academy
SS/RHP – Will Bowdoin, Sr., Glynn Academy
OF/RHP – Jackson Finley, Jr., Richmond Hill
C – Perry Fulcher, Sr., Effingham County
RHP – Kasey Green, Sr., Richmond Hill
RHP/INF – Hill Hartman, Sr., Glynn Academy
CF – Randon Jernigan, Sr., Glynn Academy
RHP – Ethan Johnson, Jr., Effingham County
RHP – Michael Menhart, Sr., Richmond Hill
INF – Rick Mitchell, Sr., Richmond Hill
C/RHP – Bo Pierce, Sr., Glynn Academy
OF – Joe Smith, Sr., Brunswick
SS/RHP – Harrison Trawick, Sr., Brunswick

BRADWELL INSTITUTE TIGERS

Head Coach: Jeff Polk
Survey not returned

BRUNSWICK PIRATES

Head Coach: Brian Crawford (new)
Assistant Coach (s): Tony Yeomans, Drew Culpepper, Grayson Yeomans
2017 Record: 13-18
Returning Starters: RHP/INF Marshall Cox (Jr., 5-9, 205, R/R); OF Joe Smith (Sr., 6-0, 160, R/R); RHP/INF Harrison Trawick (Sr., 5-11, 170, R/R); OF Mitchell Richberg (So., 6-2, 200, R/R); C/INF Hunter Goff (So., 5-8, 170, R/R); INF Matthew Trawick (So., 5-10, 145, R/R); RHP/INF Bryson Wilson (So., 5-11, 175, R/R); LHP Anthony Cleveland (Sr., 5-10, 150, L/L)
Other Returning Players: OF Aaron Rath (So., 6-0, 170, R/R); RHP Jones Jobe (Jr., 6-1, 160, R/R); C Dylan King (Sr., 6-0, 235, R/R); OF Tyler Hunnewell (Sr., 5-11, 150, R/R)
Top Newcomers: INF Devonte Gadson (Fr., 5-8, 140, R/R); LHP/1B Isaiah Wellman (Fr., 5-11, 160, R/L)
Season Outlook: Former assistant Brian Crawford takes over and looks to keep the Pirates in postseason contention. Eight starters are back, including a trio of seniors. Outfielder Joe Smith is back to spark the offense, while shortstop/pitcher Harrison Trawick also returns.

EFFINGHAM COUNTY REBELS

Head Coach: Brett Griffin
Assistant Coach (s): Aaron Hall, Matthew Alligood, Trevor Wilson, Chuck Smith, Brandon Collins
2017 Record: 19-15
Returning Starters: C Perry Fulcher (Sr., 6-0, 210, R/R); 3B Zach Wilson (Sr., 6-0, 170, R/R); 2B Jordan Rahn (Jr., 5-8, 170, R/R); SS Christian Campbell (Jr., 5-11, 145, R/R); RHP Ethan Johnson (Jr., 6-2, 165, R/R); LHP Blake Vincent (Jr., 6-1, 165, R/L)
Other Returning Players: INF Chrys Hawkins (So., 5-8, 175, R/R); LHP Colton Long (Sr., 6-4, 170, L/L)

Top Newcomers: OF JR Lonon (Jr., R/R); INF Ryan Harley (Jr., R/R)
Season Outlook: Effingham County returns six starters and should be in postseason contention. The Rebels return two solid pitchers in junior right-hander Ethan Johnson and left-hander Blake Vincent. Catcher Perry Fulcher also returns behind the plate. If the offense can perform consistently, winning 20 games may not be an issue.

GLYNN ACADEMY TERRORS

Head Coach: Trent Mongero (new)
Assistant Coach (s): Jim Horton, Jon Ricketts, Bob Black

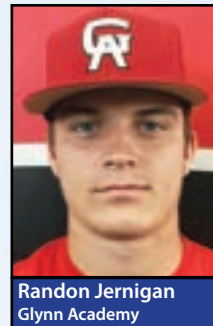
2017 Record: 24-10

Returning Starters: RHP/SS Will Bowdoin (Sr., 5-8, 165, R/R); CF Randon Jernigan (Sr., 6-0, 180, R/R); LHP/OF Jeremy Altman (Sr., 5-10, 165, L/L); C/RHP Bo Pierce (Sr., 6-3, 185, R/R); 1B/C/RHP Paul Hegeman (So., 6-2, 215, B/R); INF Hunter Hall (Sr., 5-11, 200, R/R); RHP/INF Hill Hartman (Sr., 6-0, 175, R/R)

Other Returning Players: INF Jorge Rosario (Sr., 5-11, 155, R/R); RHP/OF Christian Myers (Sr., 6-3, 170, R/R); LHP/OF Chip Hulsey (Sr., 5-11, 140, R/L); LHP Rich McKinley (Sr., 5-10, 170, L/L); OF/C Noah Johnson (Sr., 6-0, 180, R/R); 1B Griffin Bates (Sr., 6-0, 175, L/R); INF Hunter Ogden (Sr., 5-9, 150, R/R); 3B/OF Jordan McClinton (Sr., 5-9, 180, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP Grayson Shaw (Sr., R/R)

Season Outlook: Longtime North Hall coach Trent Mongero takes over and inherits seven returners. The Terrors should be one of the top teams in Region 2-6A. Pitching should be the biggest strength as Will Bowdoin (8-4, 1.04 ERA), Bo Pierce, Jeremy Altman and Hill Hartman all return. Outfielder Randon Jernigan (.429 avg.) returns to lead the offense.



Randon Jernigan
Glynn Academy

RICHMOND HILL WILDCATS

Head Coach: Stacy Bennett
Assistant Coach (s): Scott Strickland, Chad Blanton, Josh Davis, Matt Klebe, Ian Bladergroen
2017 Record: 23-13

Returning Starters: INF Rick Mitchell (Sr., 5-8, 160, R/R); OF Will Shuman (Sr., 5-8, 165, R/R); OF/RHP Kasey Green (Sr., 6-0, 175, R/R); U Evan Vaughn (Sr., 6-2, 205, R/R); INF/RHP Brandon Becker (Jr., 6-2, 170, R/R); OF/RHP Jackson Finley (Jr., 6-2, 185, R/R); RHP Michael Menhart (Sr., 6-0, 170, B/R)

Other Returning Players: U Matt Oversheet (Sr., 6-1, 170, R/R); RHP Tyler Harrison (Sr., 5-8, 150, R/R); RHP Parker Jones (Sr., 5-10, 165, R/R); LHP Teddy Rovolis (Jr., 5-10, 175, R/L)

Top Newcomers: RHP Nick McCollum (Jr., 5-8, 165, R/R); U Cameron Gilkey (Jr., 6-2, 180, R/R); RHP Andrew Chapman (Jr., 6-0, 175, R/R); U Blake Bell (So., 6-0, 180, R/R)

Season Outlook: Richmond Hill made the quarterfinals last season. Look for the Wildcats to pick up from where they left off. Pitching will be solid as Michael Menhart (11-2, 2.20 ERA), Jackson Finley and closer Kasey Green return. Infielder Rick Mitchell (.360 avg.) returns to lead the offense. An excellent senior class will be expected to lead the way.

REGION 3-6A

Region Favorite: Greenbrier

Players to Watch

- OF** – Emanuel Bryson, Sr., Grovetown
- OF** – Matthew Chester, Sr., Greenbrier
- RHP** – Will Childers, Jr., Lakeside-Evans
- C/RHP** – Patrick Daniel, Sr., Evans
- OF** – Terrell Dent, Sr., Grovetown
- C** – Walker Edmondson, Sr., Alcovy
- 3B** – Chase Frady, Sr., Lakeside-Evans
- 2B** – Hayden Harrison, Sr., Greenbrier
- RHP** – Bryce Melear, Jr., Greenbrier
- CF** – Caleb Ramsey, Sr., Heritage-Conyers
- SS/RHP** – Ashton Sturgell, Sr., Evans
- 3B/2B/RHP** – Ross Tucker, Sr., Heritage-Conyers

ALCOVY TIGERS

Head Coach: Ashley Senn

Assistant Coach (s): Bernard Bruno, Matt Kueler

2017 Record: 4-22

Returning Starters: C Walker Edmondson (Sr., 5-10, 175, R/R); LF Chandler Hicks (So., 6-1, 180, R/R)

Other Returning Players: INF/RHP Bailey Thompson (Sr., 5-10, 170, R/R); INF/RHP Seth Shelnett (Sr., 5-10, 190, R/R)

Top Newcomers: INF/RHP Ryan Spikes (Fr., 5-11, 190, R/R)

Season Outlook: Alcovy will look to turn things around after a disappointing season in 2017. The Tigers will still be young this spring. The good news is that catcher Walker Edmondson returns to lead the offense. Outfielder Chandler Hicks returns after a solid freshman campaign last season.

EVANS KNIGHTS

Head Coach: Ricky Beale

Assistant Coach (s): Trey Lariscy, Eric Leiden

2017 Record: 11-18

Returning Starters: SS/RHP Ashton Sturgell (Sr., 6-3, 170, R/R); C/RHP Patrick Daniel (Sr., 5-10, 185, R/R); 2B/SS Kyle Wilkinson (Jr., 5-7, 165, R/R); 1B/RHP Bryan Mitchell (Jr., 6-2, 215, R/R)

Other Returning Players: 1B/DH Evan Sullivan (Sr., 6-0, 245, L/L); OF Phenix Jenkins (Sr., 6-0, 175, R/R); RHP/OF/3B David Young (Jr., 6-0, 170, R/R)

Top Newcomers: OF Cody Moomey (Jr., 5-11, 175, R/R); 1B/3B/C Josh Lanham (Jr., 5-11, 195, L/R); RHP/OF Ryan Pedraza (Jr., 6-1, 160, R/R); INF Calvin Norsworthy (Jr., 5-10, 145, R/R); INF Rashaad Ross (Jr., 5-8, 135, R/R); OF Jayden Simpkins (Jr., 6-1, 160, R/R); OF/RHP Nolan Short (So., 6-3, 190, R/R)

Season Outlook: Evans will be seeking to improve upon last season's finish. The Knights made the state playoffs but lost to Lee County in the first round. Four starters are back, including standout pitcher Ashton Sturgell (5-2, 0.96 ERA) and catcher Patrick Daniel. Look for a solid corps of juniors to contribute.



Ashton Sturgell
Evans

GREENBRIER WOLFPACK

Head Coach: Jason Osborn

Assistant Coach (s): David Barnes, Mark Turner, Alex Sickman, Aaron McCorkle, Garth Thomas

2017 Record: 23-9

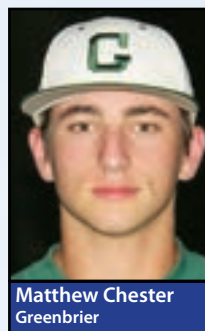
Returning Starters:

OF/RHP Matthew Chester (Sr., 5-10, 200, R/R); RHP Bryce Melear (Jr., 6-2, 145, R/R); OF/C

Jonathan Cole (Sr., 5-9, 185, R/R); RHP Josh Cunningham (Sr., 6-4, 195, R/R); C Parker Sewell (Sr., 5-10, 200, R/R); 2B/RHP Hayden Harrison (Sr., 5-10, 205, R/R); OF John Waters (Sr., 5-8, 180, R/R); RHP Jackson Hodnick (Sr., 6-5, 205, R/R); INF/RHP Jackson Rosier (Sr., 5-7, 140, R/R)

Other Returning Players: LHP Avery Boyd (So., 5-9, 130, L/L); RHP Josh Conzett (Sr., 6-1, 195, R/R); OF Cole Simmons (Jr., 5-10, 170, L/R); DH/1B Ashton Thomas (Sr., 6-4, 240, L/L); 1B Matthew Syfrett (Jr., 6-1, 170, R/R); OF Zach Azhar (Sr., 5-7, 155, R/R); RHP Lucas Dixon (Sr., 5-7, 170, R/R)

Season Outlook: A wealth of starters are back as Greenbrier should be the team to beat in Region 3-6A. Nine returners, eight of them seniors, are back. Outfielder/pitcher Matthew Chester and junior pitcher Bryce Melear should help the Wolfpack make a postseason push.



Matthew Chester
Greenbrier



Bryce Melear
Greenbrier

GROVETOWN WARRIORS

Head Coach: Nick Wandless

Assistant Coach (s): Wes Harrell

2017 Record: 13-13

Returning Starters: OF Terrell Dent (Sr., 5-10, 160, R/R); OF Emanuel Bryson (Sr., 5-8, 160, R/R); SS/RHP James Eckert (So., 5-10, 140, R/R); C Cade Combs (So., 5-8, 165, R/R); INF Malik Germany (Jr., 6-1, 170, R/R)

Other Returning Players: 1B Jared Poythress (Sr., 6-0, 170, R/R)

Top Newcomers: OF/P Blake Tucker (Jr., 6-1, 170)

Season Outlook: Grovetown will look to turn things around after finishing .500 last year. Five starters are back, including seniors Terrell Dent and Emanuel Bryson. However, the lack of experienced pitching is a concern. Some underclassmen will need to step forward.

HERITAGE-CONYERS PATRIOTS

Head Coach: Shane Ramsey

Assistant Coach (s): Mike Twardos, Nick Woodward

2017 Record: 17-15

Returning Starters: CF Caleb Ramsey (Sr., 5-10, 180, L/R); 3B/2B/RHP Ross Tucker (Sr., 6-1, 165, R/R); RHP Griffin Holcombe (Jr., 6-3, 175,



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R/R); RHP/SS/3B Nick Watson-Garcia (Jr., 6-2, 180, R/R); LHP/LF/1B Nolan Woodward (Jr., 6-3, 165, L/L); C/1B Ray Joseph (Jr., 6-4, 190, L/R); 2B/SS Cole Smith (So., 5-10, 170, R/R); RHP/RF Darryl Buggs (So., 6-2, 175, R/R); RHP/C/1B Calabria Atkins (So., 6-0, 185, R/R)

Season Outlook: Heritage should be in the postseason chase as nine starters are back. The senior class is small and some underclassmen will have to step forward. Outfielder Caleb Ramsey (.512 avg.) returns to lead the offense, but keep an eye on some talented underclassmen.



Caleb Ramsey
Heritage-Conyers

LAKESIDE-EVANS PANTHERS

Head Coach: T.J. Davis

Assistant Coach (s): Jon Johnson, Dan Sneeringer, Drew Shelton, Kim Chambers

2017 Record: 17-11

Returning Starters: 3B Chase Frady (Sr., 5-10, 190, L/R); RHP Will Childers (Jr., 6-4, 200, L/R); 2B/SS John D'Amelio (Jr., 5-8, 160, R/R); RHP Davis Cook (Jr., 6-0, 170, R/R); DH/RHP/1B David Fulcher (Jr., 6-4, 225, R/R); LHP/1B Kohl Chambers (So., 5-10, 160, R/L)

Other Returning Players: OF/RHP Zach Britt (Sr., 5-10, 150, R/R); RHP Luis Torres (Sr., 5-10, 150, R/R); 2B/SS/OF Richie Rodriguez (So., 5-8, 145, R/R); C/RHP Alex Matthews (Jr., 6-0, 165, R/R)

Top Newcomers: OF Ridley Symon (Jr., 6-1, 150, L/R)

Season Outlook: Lakeside welcomes back the return of six starters and will contend for the postseason this spring. Pitching should be the team's biggest strength. Right-hander Will Childers heads up a solid rotation that consists of Davis Cook, Kohl Chambers and David Fulcher. Infielder Chase Frady is back to spark the offense.



Will Childers
Lakeside-Evans

REGION 4-6A

Region Favorite: Tucker

Players to Watch

C/2B – Jalen Bowen, Jr., Drew

OF/LHP – Talib McDaniel-Burdeaux, Jr., Stephenson

C – Steve Cabrera, Sr., Mt. Zion-Jonesboro

RHP/SS – Khari Caver, Sr., Drew

SS/OF – David Crawford, Sr., Mundy's Mill

SS/RHP/2B – Shane Daley, So., Stephenson

SS – Trevon Flowers, Sr., Tucker

OF – Tyrek Presley, Jr., Drew

LHP – Rahmir Vaughn, Jr., Mt. Zion-Jonesboro

C/SS – Christian Webb, Jr., Stephenson

RHP/OF/3B – Ga'von Wray, Jr., Stephenson

DREW TITANS

Head Coach: Cornelius Polk

Assistant Coach (s): Brandon White

2017 Record: 9-11

Returning Starters: RHP/SS Khari Caver (Sr., 5-10, 170, R/R); RHP/3B/2B Jaquinton Stewart (Sr., 6-0, 180, R/R); C/2B Jalen Bowen (Jr., 6-0, 180, R/R); INF Kyndell Dolphin (Jr., 5-8, 160, R/R); C/RHP Ethan Phan (So., 5-9, 180, R/R); OF Tyrek Presley (Jr., 6-0, 170, L/L); 1B/RHP MacAustin Genes (Jr., 6-2, 240, R/R)

Other Returning Players: 2B Thomas Williams (Jr., 5-6, 150, R/R); OF/1B/LHP Zach McMullians (Jr., 6-0, 185, L/L); OF/RHP Jaquan Wilson (Sr., 6-1, 210, R/R)

Season Outlook: Drew welcomes back the return of seven starters, including a trio of returning pitchers. The Titans should contend for a postseason berth again. Pitcher/shortstop Khari Caver returns, while juniors Jalen Bowen and Tyrek Presley return to lead the offense.

FOREST PARK PANTHERS

Head Coach: TBA

Survey not returned

JONESBORO CARDINALS

Head Coach: Brian Paige

Survey not returned

LOVEJOY WILDCATS

Head Coach: Ivan Carroll

Survey not returned

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. LIONS

Head Coach: Steven Head

Survey not returned

MOUNT ZION-JONESBORO BULLDOGS

Head Coach: Richard Robinson (new)

Assistant Coach (s): TBA

2017 Record: 8-17

Returning Starters: LHP Rahmir Vaughn (Jr., 5-8, 130, L/L); C Steve Cabrera (Sr., 5-9, 160, R/R); RF Raymon Hill (Sr., 5-5, 155, L/L); 3B Rogelio Sanchez (So., 5-7, 140, R/R); SS Dewayne Walker (Jr., 5-8, 150, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Christian Hunter (Sr., 5-7, 165, R/R); OF Xavier Robinson (Sr., 5-8, 150, R/R); OF Mekhi Brown (Jr., 5-7, 155, L/L)

Top Newcomers: INF/RHP Rayman Vaughn (Fr., 5-8, 150, R/R)

Season Outlook: The Bulldogs seek to turn things around and contend for a postseason berth this spring. Five starters are back to lead the way. Left-handed pitcher Rahmir Vaughn returns to lead a solid pitching rotation.

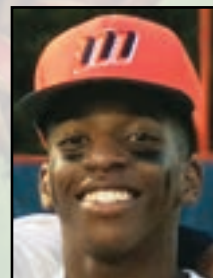
MUNDY'S MILL TIGERS

Head Coach: Patrick Smith

Assistant Coach (s): Darryl Wheeler, Robert Bell

2017 Record: 17-10

Returning Starters: SS/CF David Crawford (Sr., 6-1, 175, L/R); RF/LHP Melvin Crawford (Sr., 6-0, 155, L/L); 1B/LHP Fasian Carrington (Sr., 6-0, 160, L/L); 2B/LF Lavar Martin (Sr., 5-7, 160, R/R); C/OF Amari Taylor (Sr., 6-0, 175, R/R); 3B/RHP



David Crawford
Mundy's Mill

REGION 5-6A

Region Favorite: Alexander

Players to Watch

OF/DH – Noah Aaron, Sr., Northgate
C – Bret Adkins, Jr., South Paulding
RHP/2B – Donovan Bentley, Sr., Creekside
SS – Chase Bevil, Sr., Northgate
RHP/1B – Baley Coleman, Sr., South Paulding
LHP – Nathan Mapstone, Sr., Alexander
RHP/INF – Weston Myers, Sr., Douglas County
INF – Will Queen, Sr., Northgate
LHP/OF – Brandon Raiden, Sr., Alexander
INF/RHP – Jarrod Rome, Sr., Mays
LHP – Noah Shroyer, Sr., Alexander
C/RHP – Zack Smith, Sr., Alexander
RHP/SS – Marcus Troy, Sr., Creekside
SS/2B – Justin Walton, Jr., Creekside
RHP/OF – Ryder Willard, So., Northgate

ALEXANDER COUGARS

Head Coach: Zach Romain (new)
Assistant Coach (s): Matt Pierce, Kent Quinn, Wayne Allen, Bob Toolan

2017 Record: 28-9

Returning Starters: LHP Nathan Mapstone (Sr., 6-2, 180, L/L); LHP/OF Brandon Raiden (Sr., 6-0, 150, L/L); LHP Noah Shroyer (Sr., 6-1, 145, L/L); C/RHP Zack Smith (Sr., 6-0, 175, R/R); SS/3B Payton Grant (Jr., 5-10, 185, R/R); C/OF Jesse Decker (Jr., 6-0, 185, R/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP/OF Austin Slate (So., 6-0, 170, R/R); 1B/3B Josh McKown (Jr., 6-0, 180, R/R); 2B/3B/RHP Luke Townsend (Jr., 5-10, 185, R/R); SS/2B Zach Warren (So., 5-10, 170, R/R)

Season Outlook: Former assistant coach Zach Romain takes over and inherits six returning starters. The pitching rotation should be strong as left-handers Nathan Mapstone (8-1, 1.05 ERA), Brandon Raiden (6-0, 3.47 ERA) and Noah Shroyer all return. Zack Smith and juniors Payton Grant and Jesse Decker return to lead the offense.



Nathan Mapstone
Alexander

CREEKSIDE SEMINOLES

Head Coach: Martin Seay
Assistant Coach (s): Fred Holloway

2017 Record: 14-13

Returning Starters: RHP/2B Donovan Bentley (Sr., 5-10, 170, R/R); RHP/3B Eduardo DeSantos (Jr., 5-8, 140, R/R); RHP/SS Marcus Troy (Sr., 5-10, 175, R/R); RHP/1B Donovan Jones (Jr., 5-10, 220, R/R); SS/2B Justin Walton (Jr., 5-10, 150, R/R); C DeAndre Arnold (Jr., 5-11, 170, R/R); CF Nathaniel Vance (So., 5-10, 150, R/R)

Other Returning Players: LHP/LF Donovan Troy (So., 5-10, 150, L/L); RF James Walton (Jr., 5-10, 160, R/R)

Top Newcomers: 3B/1B Ja’Kai Smith (So., 5-10, 150); P/1B Steven Young (Jr., 5-11, 170)

Derrick Lindsey (Sr., 5-11, 175, R/R)

Season Outlook: A veteran team returns for Mundy’s Mill who should challenge for the region crown. Six starters, all of them seniors, return to lead the way. Keep an eye on offensive leader David Crawford (.568 avg.) who was the Clayton County Player of the Year in 2017.

STEPHENSON JAGUARS

Head Coach: Marco Jackson

Assistant Coach

(s): Tim Jones, Chris Cheffen, Jerome Wooley, Gene Washington, Tre Randolph

2017 Record: 16-13

Returning Starters:

RHP/OF/3B Ga’von Wray (Jr., 6-3, 190, R/R); OF/LHP Talib McDaniel-Burdeaux (Jr., 5-7, 165,

L/L); SS/RHP/2B Shane Daley (So., 5-9, 145, R/R); RHP/1B/3B Vincent Latimer (So., 5-9, 170, R/R)

Other Returning Players: 2B/OF Myles Brooks (Jr., 5-9, 145, R/R); C Raymond Henderson (Jr., 5-8, 165, R/R); OF Ryan Ingram (So., 5-8, 150, R/R); OF/RHP Nakai Briggs (Jr., 5-5, 140, R/R)

Top Newcomers: LHP/1B Francis Thorne (Fr., 6-2, 155, L/L); 2B/3B Corrian Peoples (Jr., 5-9, 150, R/R); LHP/1B Joseph Jackson (Fr., 5-9, 150, L/L); OF/RHP Bradley Favors (Fr., 5-10, 145, R/R)

Season Outlook: Stephenson will still be a young team this spring. However, don’t sleep on the Jaguars. Four starters are back, including standout Ga’von Wray (6-3, 2.01 ERA). Junior outfielder/pitcher Talib McDaniel-Burdeaux also returns. Look for a strong group of sophomores to step forward and contribute.



Shane Daley
Stephenson



Talib McDaniel-Burdeaux
Stephenson



Ga’von Wray
Stephenson

TUCKER TIGERS

Head Coach: Matt Masce (new)

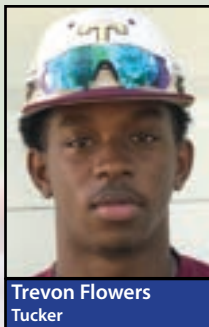
Assistant Coach (s): Marcus Mitchell, Harry Sapp

2017 Record: 26-8

Returning Starters: SS Trevon Flowers (Sr., 6-1, 185, R/R); RHP/1B Stanford Flowers (Sr., 6-1, 175, L/L); RHP/OF Miles Grayson (Sr., 6-0, 180, R/R); OF/RHP Clay Dodson (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/R); C/SS Christian Webb (Jr., 5-8, 165, R/R); 2B/3B Jordan West (Jr., 5-8, 165, R/R)

Other Returning Players: 3B/1B Nicalas Williams (Sr., 6-0, 210, R/R); 1B/OF Christian Land (Sr., 6-1, 200, R/R); 1B/RHP Wesley Jackson (Sr., 6-0, 220, R/R); OF Jakobi Jones (Sr., 6-1, 190, R/R)

Season Outlook: First-year coach Matt Masce takes over and inherits a talented squad that will be expected to contend for the region title. Six starters are back, including all-state shortstop Trevon Flowers. The senior class is solid and will lead the team.



Trevon Flowers
Tucker

Season Outlook: Creekside should contend for the postseason as seven starters are back. A pair of seniors – pitcher/infielder Donovan Bentley and pitcher/shortstop Marcus Troy – will lead the way. Keep an eye on a solid corps of underclassmen who will contribute.

DOUGLAS COUNTY TIGERS

Head Coach: John Farmer

Assistant Coach (s): Derek Brutcher, Brad Kluttz, Eric Bryant

2017 Record: 8-20

Returning Starters: 1B/LHP Parker Ball (Jr., 6-3, 230, L/L); U/RHP James Richards (Jr., 6-1, 170, R/R); OF Myles Holloway (Jr., 5-10, 160, R/R); SS/RHP Josh Slay (Jr., 6-0, 185, R/R); 3B Corey Caldwell (Jr., 5-11, 155, R/R); RHP/INF Weston Myers (Sr., 5-10, 165, R/R); U/RHP James Benedict (Jr., 5-11, 135, R/R)

Other Returning Players: C/INF Kenny Rodriguez (Jr., 5-9, 180, R/R); INF Jarrett Asberry (Jr., 6-1, 185, R/R); OF/LHP Griffin Tillem (So., 5-9, 120, L/L); U David Hart (So., 5-8, 185, L/L); C/LHP Keegan Abley (So., 6-0, 140, L/L)

Top Newcomers: LHP/OF Gage Sanders (So., 5-9, 130, L/L)

Season Outlook: Douglas County hopes to keep making positive strides this spring and compete for a postseason berth. The Tigers will still be a young team. The good news is that pitcher/infielder Weston Myers returns. A strong group of juniors should help Douglas County improve upon last season's record.

HUGHES PANTHERS

Head Coach: Charles Foster

Survey not returned

MAYS RAIDERS

Head Coach: Reginald Austin

Assistant Coach (s): Michael Jennings, Kyle Poag

2017 Record: 8-14

Returning Starters: INF/RHP Jarrod Rome (Sr., 5-11, 170, R/R); RHP Kevin Thigpen (Sr., 5-11, 145, R/R); INF/C Tervelle Johnson (So., 5-9, 160, R/R); 2B/OF Omari Drake (So., 5-11, 145, R/R); 1B/OF/LHP Avante Lupoe (So., 5-11, 145, L/L)

Top Newcomers: 2B/SS/OF Julian Greer (So., 5-7, 160, R/R)

Season Outlook: Mays will seek to get things turned around after a disappointing season last spring. The Raiders will field a relatively young team in 2018. Five starters are back. Infielder/pitcher Jarrod Rome and pitcher Kevin Thigpen will be depended upon to lead a young but talented group of underclassmen.

NEW MANCHESTER JAGUARS

Head Coach: Ian Chisolm (new)

Survey not returned

NORTHGATE VIKINGS

Head Coach: Todd Herrington

Assistant Coach (s): Cody Bevil, Justin Crews, Lee McDermott, Matt Ross

2017 Record: 15-16

Returning Starters: SS Chase Bevil (Sr., 5-11, 160, R/R); INF Will Queen (Sr., 5-10, 140, R/R); RHP/1B/DH Corbitt Cimadevilla (Sr., 6-3, 215, R/R); OF/DH Noah Aaron (Sr., 6-0, 175, R/R); U Connor Fortner (Sr., 6-0, 185, L/R); RHP/OF Ryder Willard (So., 6-0, 180, L/R)

Other Returning Players: INF Donovan Devane (Sr., 5-8, 155, R/R); C/OF Will Horne (Sr., 5-8, 175, R/R); C/INF Conner Mask (Jr., 5-8, 140,

R/R); RHP/INF Robert Smith (Jr., 5-8, 170, R/R); INF Christian Dyer (So., 5-8, 145, R/R); C Andrew Baldwin (So., 5-8, 150, R/R); RHP Dalton Brooks (Jr., 5-11, 160, R/R); RHP Tyler Rhein (Sr., 5-10, 160, R/R); RHP Alex Cawood (Sr., 6-3, 185, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP/OF Andrew Washington (Jr., 5-11, 150, R/R)

Season Outlook: Look for Northgate to be much better this spring. Six starters return, including shortstop Chase Bevil and infielder Will Queen. The pitching rotation should be improved as right-handers Ryder Willard and Alex Cawood return.

SOUTH PAULDING SPARTANS

Head Coach: Jay Sneddon (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Cody Neal, Bryce Sellers, Chris Adair, Travis Ross

2017 Record: 23-10

Returning Starters: RHP/1B Baley Coleman (Sr., 6-2, 225, R/R); RHP/INF Dylan Freeman (Sr., 5-10, 175, R/R); LHP/OF Luke Lamar (Sr., 5-10, 165, L/L); C Bret Adkins (Jr., 6-0, 180, R/R)

Other Returning Players: LHP/OF Ezra Brown (Sr., 6-4, 180, L/L); RHP/C Devin Flowers (Sr., 5-8, 205, R/R); RHP Russ Lockridge (Sr., 5-11, 170, R/R); 1B Logan Ray (Sr., 5-9, 160, R/L); RHP Zach Sandman (Sr., 6-1, 175, R/R); RHP/OF Cameron Smith (Sr., 5-10, 180, R/R); RHP/INF Keegan Vura (Sr., 5-8, 160, R/R)

Top Newcomers: LHP/1B T.C. Clayton (Jr., 6-1, 180, L/L); INF Chris Longazel (Jr., 5-8, 160, R/R)

Season Outlook: Former assistant coach Jay Sneddon takes over at South Paulding and inherits a solid nucleus of talent. Four starters are back. Pitcher/first baseman Baley Coleman and junior catcher Bret Adkins are back to lead the way. Look for the Spartans to be back in the postseason hunt.

TRI-CITIES BULLDOGS

Head Coach: Terrow Davis

Survey not returned

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REGION 6-6A

Region Favorite: River Ridge

Players to Watch

RHP – Peyton Berry, Sr., Harrison
CF – Nick Blubaugh, Sr., River Ridge
RHP – Matthew Bollenbacher, Sr., Harrison
3B – Branson Bowling, Sr., River Ridge
OF – Tanner Carruth, Sr., Sequoyah
2B/SS/C – Payton Eeles, Sr., Allatoona
SS – Blake Evans, Sr., Allatoona
SS – Gavin Grubbs, Jr., Creekview
RHP/2B – Harrison Hughes, Sr., Dalton
RHP – Tanner Lescanec, Sr., South Cobb
LHP/OF – Matt Martin, Sr., Allatoona
RHP – Jacob McClure, Jr., Sprayberry
C/INF – Alex Mendoza, Sr., Sequoyah
OF – Mario Moreau, Sr., Osborne
1B/LHP – Harrison Norman, Sr., Dalton
C – Connor Pavolony, Sr., River Ridge
2B – Grant Potts, Jr., Creekview
OF/1B/LHP – Griffin Potts, Jr., Creekview
SS/OF – Deandre Rhodes, Sr., South Cobb
LHP – Abram Scheib, Sr., Creekview
LHP/1B/OF – Brady Simpson, Sr., Sprayberry
C – David Smith, Sr., Allatoona
C – JP Tighe, Sr., Dalton
C/INF – Tyler Tolve, Sr., Sprayberry
INF – Ethan Underwood, Sr., Harrison
LHP/RF – Chris Williams, Sr., River Ridge
OF/LHP – Justin Wroblewski, Sr., Sequoyah

ALLATOONA BUCCANEERS

Head Coach: Keith Hansen

Assistant Coach (s):

Brad Strickland, Mike Linch, Zach Cook, David Eeles

2017 Record: 31-5

Returning Starters: C

David Smith (Sr., 6-2, 185, L/R); SS/RHP Blake Evans (Sr., 5-10, 160, L/R); 2B Payton Eeles (Sr., 5-9, 160, L/R); 3B/RHP

Tyler Messick (Jr., 5-11, 185, R/R); OF/RHP Tyler Shultz (Jr., 5-10, 155, R/R); LHP/1B Kyle Reichert (Jr., 6-2, 160, L/L); RHP/OF Dalton Halyard (Sr., 6-1, 150, R/R)

Other Returning Players: 1B/C Greg Boland (Sr., 6-2, 215, L/R); 1B/OF Bryce Thompson (Jr., 6-0, 205, R/R); INF/OF Alex Tansey (Sr., 5-7, 150, L/R); RHP/OF Rett Russell (Sr., 6-2, 170, R/R); LHP/1B Chaz Phillips (Sr., 5-11, 220, L/L); RHP Nathan Bourne (Sr., 6-2, 160, R/R); RHP Hunter



Blake Evans
Allatoona



David Smith
Allatoona



Payton Eeles
Allatoona

Woodall (Sr., 5-11, 160, R/R)

Top Newcomers: LHP/OF Matt Martin (Sr., 6-0, 165, L/L); OF/RHP Sam Worthan (Jr., 5-11, 170, R/R); SS/RHP Carter Stumpf (So., 5-11, 150, R/R); OF/LHP Morgan Bell (Sr., 6-0, 165, B/L)

Season Outlook: If the Buccaneers can find a few more pitching arms, they could approach last year's success. Seven starters are back, including offensive catalysts David Smith (.419 avg., 34 RBIs) and Blake Evans (.447 avg., 8 2B). Infielder Payton Eeles (.349 avg., 20 RBIs) also returns. The senior class is talented. Allatoona hopes the transfer of former Hillgrove standout pitcher Matt Martin will help out.

CREEKVIEW GRIZZLIES

Head Coach: Mike Nayman

Assistant Coach (s): Chris Jeffreys, Len Kelley, Ben Greene, Justin Wheeler, Shane Dunne, Freddie Foster

2017 Record: 10-18

Returning Starters: OF/1B/LHP Griffin Potts (Jr., 5-9, 170, L/L); 2B Grant Potts (Jr., 5-10, 170, R/R); SS Gavin Grubbs (Jr., 5-10, 175, R/R); OF Tanner McCrary (Sr., 6-0, 180, R/R); 3B Jack Wood (Sr., 6-0, 180, R/R); C/1B Mitch Robinson (Sr., 6-3, 225, L/R)

Other Returning Players: 3B Joey Cody (Sr., 6-0, 185, R/R); OF Andy Davis (Jr., 6-2, 185, R/R); OF Wyatt Hepburn (Sr., 5-11, 180, R/R); OF Alex Godfrey (Jr., 6-1, 215, R/R); RHP Kolby Johnson (Sr., 6-1, 190, R/R); LHP Abram Scheib (Sr., 6-4, 190, L/L); RHP Harrison Spates (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/R); RHP Zach McClure (Sr., 6-1, 190, R/R)

Top Newcomers: 2B/OF Ryan Tencza (Jr., 5-9, 160, R/R); C/RHP Calvin Haynes (Jr., 6-0, 190, R/R); OF Grayson Baker (Jr., 6-1, 180, R/R); LHP/OF Joey Gill (Jr., 6-2, 185, L/L)

Season Outlook: If some injured players can return to form, Creekview could contend for a playoff berth this spring. A wealth of talent returns, including a trio of juniors – Griffin Potts, Grant Potts and Gavin Grubbs. Pitchers Abram Scheib and Kolby Johnson will anchor what could be a solid pitching rotation.

DALTON CATAMOUNTS

Head Coach: Rhett Parrott

Assistant Coach (s):

Brian Harrison, Jaime Johnson, Curtis Carson

2017 Record: 25-10

Returning Starters: C JP

Tighe (Sr., 6-2, 190, R/R); RHP/2B Harrison Hughes (Sr., 6-0, 175, R/R); 1B/LHP Harrison Norman (Sr., 5-10, 170, L/L); OF/RHP Cade Gabriel (Sr., 6-2, 170, R/R); U Jack Ridley (Jr., 5-11, 170, R/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP/INF Justin Ketchem (Jr., 6-3, 170, R/R); OF James Rogers (Jr., 5-7, 155, R/R); SS Rhett Hammontree (So., 5-11, 155, R/R); OF/C Bryce Houghton (So., 5-9, 155, R/R)

Top Newcomers: OF Tyson Swope (So., 6-0, 180, R/R); 1B/LHP Kaleb Valdez (Fr., 5-8, 155, L/L)

Season Outlook: The Catamounts have posted two deep postseason runs the past two seasons. Dalton has the talent to make another run this spring. Five starters are back, including catcher JP Tighe, pitchers Harrison Hughes and Harrison Norman and outfielder/pitcher Cade Gabriel. But some younger players will need to step forward and help out.



Harrison Hughes
Dalton



Harrison Norman
Dalton

HARRISON HOYAS

Head Coach: Mark Elkins

Assistant Coach (s):

Jake Storey, Jason Evans,
Donnie Shelby,
Steve Childers

2017 Record: 20-10

Returning Starters:

INF Duke Wodetzki (Sr.,
6-1, 165, R/R); INF Ethan
Underwood (Sr., 6-1, 195,
L/R); RHP Peyton Berry
(Sr., 6-2, 210, R/R); RHP

Matthew Bollenbacher (Sr., 6-1, 170, R/R)

Other Returning Players: C Evan Dory (Jr., 5-9, 145, R/R); OF/RHP
Conner Todaro (Jr., 5-10, 150, R/R); OF/RHP Camden McNearney (Jr.,
5-5, 130, R/R); OF Bryan Deegan (Sr., 5-10, 150, L/L); INF/OF Micah
Davis (Jr., 5-10, 155, R/R); INF Zach Elmy (Jr., 6-0, 180, R/R); C Cody
Garrison (Jr., 6-0, 155, R/R)

Season Outlook: The Hoyas return two of the top pitchers in the
region in right-hander Peyton Berry (8-1, 1.08 ERA) and Matthew
Bollenbacher (5-4, 1.71 ERA). Infielders Ethan Underwood (.338 avg.),
Duke Wodetzki and Zach Elmy return to lead the offense. Look for
Harrison to be back in the playoff chase as usual.



Peyton Berry
Harrison



Matthew Bollenbacher
Harrison

OSBORNE CARDINALS

Head Coach: Brad Bond

Assistant Coach (s): Josh Lee

2017 Record: 0-23

Returning Starters: OF Mario Moreau (Sr., R/R); C Nick Lusignolo
(So.); INF Juan Vasquez (So.); OF Malikk Harris (So., R/R); INF Malik
Reece (Sr., R/R)

Other Returning Players: INF Daniel Skibba (Sr., R/R); INF John Soto
(So., R/R)

Top Newcomers: INF Johnathan Skibba (Fr., R/R)

Season Outlook: Osborne will look to get back on track after a
disappointing finish in 2017. The Cardinals have a small senior class,
but look for a talented group of sophomores to contribute. Seniors
Mario Moreau and Malik Reece give Osborne a pair of experienced
leaders to build around.

RIVER RIDGE KNIGHTS

Head Coach: Scott Bradley

Assistant Coach (s):

Jeff Runion, Andrew
Marinelli, Mark Lewis,
Lantz Cleveland

2017 Record: 29-10

Returning Starters: C

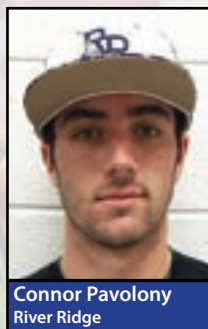
Connor Pavolony (Sr.,
R/R); OF Nick Blubaugh
(Sr., L/L); OF/LHP Chris
Williams (Sr., L/L); 3B
Branson Bowling (Sr.,

L/R); SS Cael Chatham (Sr., L/R); OF/RHP Ethan Anderson (Jr., R/R); 2B
Andrew Herring (Sr., R/R); OF Dylan Wray (Sr., R/R)

Other Returning Players: 1B Lane Tenqzelius (Jr., R/R); RHP Alex
Iverson (Sr., R/R); INF Carson Bell (So., R/R); 1B Colin Grant (Jr., R/R); INF
Justin Snodgrass (Jr., R/R); OF Chris Cochran (Sr., R/R); OF Dylan Logan



Nick Blubaugh
River Ridge



Connor Pavolony
River Ridge

(Sr., R/R); RHP Aaron Osada (So., R/R); OF/1B Chris Wolfe (Jr., R/R)

Season Outlook: The Knights came on strong last season and
should pick up from where they left off. A wealth of talent is back,
including all-state catcher Connor Pavolony (.376 avg., 10 HR, 32
RBIs) and outfielder Nick Blubaugh (.324 avg., 26 RBIs). Pitcher Chris
Williams (8-2, 2.20 ERA) leads a young but solid rotation.

SEQUOYAH CHIEFS

Head Coach: Lane Whitley (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Bo Carruth, Justin Hall,
Jake Hester, Tony Hobbs, John Martin

2017 Record: 13-15

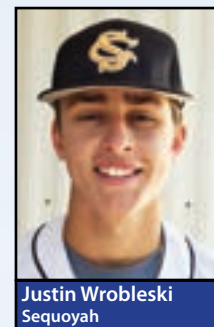
Returning Starters: OF/LHP Justin Wroblewski

(Sr., 6-2, 185, L/L); OF Tanner Carruth (Sr., 6-0,
155, L/L); C/INF Alex Mendoza (Sr., 5-10, 155,
R/R); INF/RHP Brett Wissell (Jr., 6-0, 160, R/R);
INF/RHP Colin Koprowski (So., 5-11, 170, R/R)

Other Returning Players: INF/RHP Tyler
Buckner (Sr., 6-1, 195, R/R); RHP Christian Hupp (Sr.,

5-7, 155, R/R); C/OF Mason Carrier (Sr., 6-0, 190, R/R); INF/RHP Alejandro
Morales (Sr., 6-0, 190, R/R); INF/RHP Justin Wells (Sr., 6-0, 180, R/R)

Season Outlook: New coach Lane Whitley takes over and inherits a
solid group of returning players. The senior class is strong. Three seniors
will be expected to lead the way – outfielder/pitcher Justin Wroblewski,
outfielder Tanner Carruth and catcher/infielder Alex Mendoza.



Justin Wroblewski
Sequoyah

SOUTH COBB EAGLES

Head Coach: Mark Deroux

Assistant Coach (s): Christopher Hill, Jermaine Slay, Paul Combest,
Brian Scott

2017 Record: 4-17

Returning Starters: SS/OF DeAndre Rhodes (Sr., 6-0, 160, R/R); RHP
Tanner Lescanec (Sr., 6-2, 165, R/R); C Cloudy Caba (Sr., 5-9, 240, R/R);
1B/OF Abram Gladney (Sr., 6-4, 160, L/L); U Xavier Palmer (Sr., 5-8,
145, R/R); U Brysen Boone (Jr., 5-10, 150, R/R); RHP/OF Aneas Dennis
(Jr., 6-2, 170, R/R); INF DeChristian Minter (Jr., 5-9, 145, R/R); OF/RHP
Garrison Green (Jr., 6-2, 150, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Dontavious Bell (Sr., 6-1, 150, R/R); 1B
Emmanuel Melon (So., 6-3, 205, R/R); OF Jason Mack (So., 6-2, 200, R/R);
INF Kiya Kind (So., 6-1, 180, R/R); U Lekiley Boazman (Sr., 5-10, 145, R/R);
U Andy Iyabor (Jr., 5-9, 135, R/R); U Steveson Cerisier (Sr., 5-9, 140, R/R)

Top Newcomers: 3B Martin Suarez (Fr., 6-3, 140, R/R); C/U Josue
Rodrigues (Fr., 6-0, 150, R/R); U Allen Mateo (Fr., 5-11, 140, B/R); 1B
Wilbert Espinal (Fr., 5-11, 190, L/L); OF Fermin Rhodes (Fr., R/R); OF
Jeffery Waters (Fr., 5-11, 185, R/R); C Kelvin Mulina (Fr., 5-11, 140, R/R)

Season Outlook: The Eagles should be much better this spring as a
wealth of talent returns. Nine starters are back, including shortstop/
outfielder DeAndre Rhodes and pitcher Tanner Lescanec. Keep an
eye on a solid group of underclassmen who will contribute.

SPRAYBERRY YELLOW JACKETS

Head Coach: Taylor Hightower (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Rick Elder

2017 Record: 12-17

Returning Starters: C/INF/OF Tyler Tolve (Sr.,
L/R); RHP Jacob McClure (Jr., R/R); LHP/1B/OF
Brady Simpson (Sr., R/L); OF Tracy Adams (Jr., R/R);
3B/1B Dallas Cornette (Sr., R/R); INF Nate Marletta



Tyler Tolve
Sprayberry

(Jr., R/R); RHP/OF Cameron Wilson (Jr., R/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP Austin Irmsel (Jr., R/R); RHP/INF Tate Johnson (Sr., R/R); RHP/SS Cade Caldwell (Jr., R/R); OF Darnell Mundin (So., R/R); C Taylor Shomo (Sr., R/R)

Season Outlook: First-year coach Taylor Hightower takes over and inherits seven returning starters. A trio of senior starters – catcher/infielder/outfielder Tyler Tolve, pitcher/first-baseman/outfielder Brady Simpson and infielder Dallas Cornette – return to lead the way.

REGION 7-6A

Region Favorite: Pope

Players to Watch

INF/RHP – Kyle Bernitt, Sr., Centennial

C – Chaz Bertolani, Sr., Johns Creek

C – Teddy Egan, Sr., Cambridge

SS – Buddy Floyd, Jr., Pope

INF/OF – Connor Frost, Sr., Pope

LHP – Charlie Goldstein, Jr., Alpharetta

SS – Matt Gravely, Sr., Johns Creek

2B – Antonio Jareno, Sr., Pope

CF – Christian Lail, Sr., Cambridge

RHP/C/INF – Mason List, Sr., Chattahoochee

RHP/OF – Colton McDaniel, Sr., Northview

RHP – Hayden McIlwaine, Jr., Johns Creek

3B/RHP – Noah Mendlinger, Sr., Alpharetta

SS – Santiago Montiel, Sr., Alpharetta

LHP – Davis Rokose, Jr., Chattahoochee

1B – Caden Smith, Jr., Pope

C – Michael Trautwein, Sr., Northview

ALPHARETTA RAIDERS

Head Coach: Marc Lassiati

Assistant Coach (s):

Allen Strohecker, Cody White, Richard Gaines

2017 Record: 18-13

Returning Starters:

SS Santiago Montiel (Sr.,

5-11, 175, R/R); 3B/RHP

Noah Mendlinger (Sr.,

5-9, 175, R/L); OF/LHP

Nadir Lewis (Sr., 6-1, 190,

L/L); OF Justin Kirby (Sr.,

5-11, 185, R/R); OF Matthew Wilson (Sr., 5-10, 175, L/L); C Ben Browning

(Sr., 5-11, 190, R/R); LHP Charlie Goldstein (Jr., 6-1, 190, L/L)

Other Returning Players: 1B/RHP Drew Beiger (Sr., 6-6, 210, R/R);

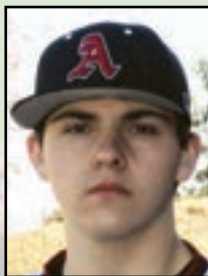
RHP Cole Hamell (Jr., 6-1, 195, R/R); OF/RHP Drew Glaze (Sr., 6-0, 175,

R/R); RHP Anthony Gauthier (Sr., 5-11, 170, R/R)

Top Newcomers: C Bradley Rawlinson (Jr., 6-1, 200, R/R); OF/2B Josh

Maicon (Jr., 5-9, 160, R/R); OF Khiri Jenkins (Sr., 5-10, 180, R/R); RHP

Drew Sutton (Sr., 6-0, 175, R/R); 3B/RHP Ryan Schipf (Jr., 5-11, 185, R/R)



Charlie Goldstein
Alpharetta



Noah Mendlinger
Alpharetta

Season Outlook: Alpharetta just missed the playoffs last year. Look for the Raiders to contend again this season as seven starters are back. Shortstop Santiago Montiel returns as well as pitcher/third baseman Noah Mendlinger and left-handed pitcher Charlie Goldstein. Alpharetta returns enough talent to contend for the region title.



Santiago Montiel
Alpharetta

CAMBRIDGE BEARS

Head Coach: TBA

Assistant Coach (s): Justin Zier

2017 Record: 15-15

Returning Starters: C Teddy Egan (Sr., 5-11, 170, L/R); CF Christian Lail (Sr., 5-9, 170, R/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP/2B Blake Renner (Jr., 5-11, 180, R/R); RHP/DH Michael Polk (Jr., 6-2, 170, R/R); RHP/3B Andrew Spears (Sr., 5-11, 170, R/R); RHP Tyler Shafer (Sr., 6-5, 190, R/R); OF Connor Morris (Sr., 5-8, 160, R/R)

Season Outlook: The Bears have some key positions to fill if they want to approach last year's success. Most of the team's pitching and offense graduated. Two starters are back, including catcher Teddy Egan and outfielder Christian Lail. Cambridge must develop some pitching quickly.

CENTENNIAL KNIGHTS

Head Coach: Matt McCarthy (new)

Assistant Coach (s): David Kelly, Chris Carroll, Chad Grube, Jason Winchell

2017 Record: 12-16

Returning Starters: C Sam Janis (Jr.); P/3B/1B Jonathan Cannon (Jr.); OF/P Cam Landry (Jr.); INF/P Tahj Willis (Jr.); INF/RHP Kyle Bernitt (Sr.); OF Elijah Franklin (Sr.); OF/P Cole Phillips (Sr.); P Britt Kelly (Sr.)

Other Returning Players: P David Gaffney (Sr.); P Jake Challenger (Sr.)

Top Newcomers: 1B/OF/P/C Will Haberstock (So.); INF Robbie Merrill (So.); INF/C Max Able (So.); OF David Morgan (Jr.); INF Cesar Fernandez (Jr.)

Season Outlook: First-year coach Matt McCarthy takes over and inherits eight returning starters. The Knights return a good mixture of seniors and juniors. Shortstop Kyle Bernitt, catcher Sam Janis, outfielder/pitcher Cam Landry, outfielder/pitcher Cole Phillips and pitcher/infielder Jonathan Cannon return to lead the way.

CHATTAHOOCHEE COUGARS

Head Coach: Tim Lemons

Assistant Coach (s): John Kelly, Tim Jones, TJ Lemons

2017 Record: 12-18

Returning Starters: RHP/C/3B/SS Mason List (Sr., 6-0, 170, R/R); LHP Davis Rokose (Jr., 5-9, 170, L/L); 3B/RHP Carson Wilkinson (Sr., 6-1, 170, R/R); LHP Sam Cohen (Sr., 6-3, 165, L/L); C Brock Marsho (Jr., 5-11, 165, R/R); 2B/OF Brendan Huet (Sr., 5-10, 150, R/R)

Other Returning Players: SS Jeremy Vaccaro (Jr., 5-7, 140, R/R); LHP Harrison Hall (Sr., 5-11, 155, L/L); RHP/3B Sean Kelly (Jr., 5-9, 145, R/R); OF Justin Simes (Jr., 5-9, 150, L/R); RHP Connor Boyd (Sr., 6-2, 150, R/R); SS Nathan Krasesky (So., 5-7, 140, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP Ian Snelson (Sr., 5-9, 145, R/R); RHP/3B Nick Foitek (Jr., 5-9, 165, R/R); RHP Andrew Rutledge (Jr., 5-11, 220, R/R)

Season Outlook: The Cougars should have a chance to improve on last season's record. A trio of top pitchers return to lead the way

in Mason List (2-1, 1.75 ERA), Davis Rokose (4-2, 2.43 ERA) and Sam Cohen (2-0, 2.89 ERA). The senior class is solid.

DUNWOODY WILDCATS

Head Coach: Chan English
Survey not returned

JOHNS CREEK GLADIATORS

Head Coach: Billy Nicholson

Assistant Coach (s):

Evan Deis, Kenny Ludlow, Ron Loula, David Burton, Ted Fithian

2017 Record: 23-14

Returning Starters:

C Chaz Bertolani (Sr., 5-8, 165, R/R) SS Matt Gravely (Sr., 6-3, 180, R/R); RHP Hayden

Mcllwaine (Jr., 5-11, 165, R/R) INF Chandler Drake (Jr., 5-8, 160, L/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Cam Reamer (Sr., 6-0, 180, L/R); C/INF Jared White (Jr., 5-8, 185, L/R); LHP/1B Cole Donaldson (Sr., 6-3, 265, L/L); LHP/OF Jack Ferguson (Jr., 5-9, 165, L/L); INF Micheal Margarite (Jr., 5-9, 150, L/R); RHP/3B Zach Hall (Sr., 5-10, 195, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP Cam Bartlett (Sr., 5-10, 160, R/R); RHP Nicholas Konisiti (Jr., 6-0, 180, R/R); LHP Ryan Samples (Jr., 5-11, 165, L/L); OF Vincent Ruggiero (Sr., 5-11, 180, R/R); OF Justin Forney (Sr., 6-2, 170, R/R)

Season Outlook: The Gladiators made a run to the semifinals last year, and a good bit of that talent returns. Catcher Chaz Bertolani is back as well as shortstop Matt Gravely. Right-hander Hayden Mcllwaine returns after a solid sophomore season on the mound. Johns Creek should once again be in the postseason picture.



Chaz Bertolani
Johns Creek



Matt Gravely
Johns Creek

NORTH ATLANTA WARRIORS

Head Coach: TBA
Survey not returned

NORTHVIEW TITANS

Head Coach: Tom Kratowicz (new)

Assistant Coach (s):

Scotty McDaniel

2017 Record: 25-9

Returning Starters:

RHP/OF Colton McDaniel (Sr., 5-11, 180, R/R) C Michael Trautwein (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/R)

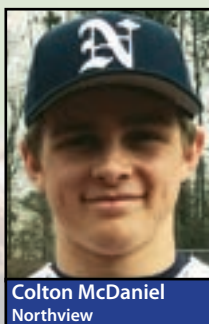
Other Returning

Players: LHP/INF Ryan Blake (Jr., 6-1, 170, L/L)

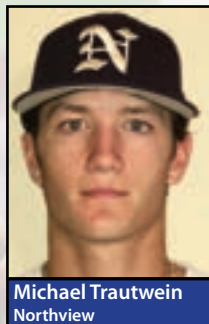
OF Mac Bolton (Jr., 6-2, 175, R/R); INF Jaysen Dower (Jr., 5-11, 170, R/R); RHP Mark McLaughlin (Jr., 6-2, 180, R/R); LHP/OF Brian Chuo (Sr., 5-10, 160, L/L); RHP Will Whitman (Sr., 6-2, 185, R/R); LHP Ethan Lowenthal (Sr., 6-0, 170, L/L)

Top Newcomers: C/INF Michael Izzi (So., 5-7, 155, R/R); INF/RHP Beau Lark (So., 5-8, 155, R/R); INF/OF Cal Hendricks (So., 5-7, 150, R/R)

Season Outlook: Former assistant Tom Kratowicz takes over and inherits a solid group of returners. Northview made the state playoffs



Colton McDaniel
Northview



Michael Trautwein
Northview

last year and should be in contention again, especially with the return of right-handed pitcher Colton McDaniel (11-1, 1.14 ERA) and catcher Michael Trautwein (.390 avg., 4 HR). Keep an eye on a solid corps of juniors.

POPE GREYHOUNDS

Head Coach: Jeff Rowland

Assistant Coach

(s): Chris Turco, Al Savransky, Kenny Lotz, Nick Montgomery, Ryan Khan, Brady Walsh

2017 Record: 34-6

Returning Starters:

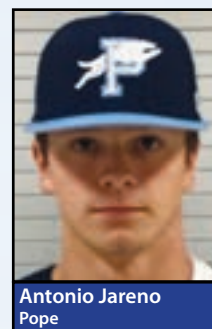
2B Antonio Jareno (Sr., 5-8, 175, R/R); OF/INF Connor Frost (Sr., 5-10, 170, R/R); SS Buddy

Floyd (Jr., 5-7, 160, B/R); 1B Caden Smith (Jr., 6-3, 170)

Other Returning Players: RHP Harris East (Sr., 6-1, 145, R/R); C Grayson Caldwell (Sr., 5-10, 175, R/R); RHP Jordan Butler (Sr., 6-0, 150, R/R); RHP Noah Estroff (Sr., 6-1, 160, R/R); LHP Scotty LeSieur (Sr., 5-10, 150, L/L); RHP/INF Max Pralgo (Jr., 6-1, 160, R/R); OF Will Lantis (Jr., 5-10, 150, R/R); OF Sammy Cohen (Jr., 6-1, 180, L/L); RHP Andrew Herlitz (Jr., 6-1, 180, R/R); OF/LHP Reid Robertson (So., 5-9, 150, L/L)

Top Newcomers: INF Alex Espinel (Jr., 5-10, 170, R/R); C Jackson Brown (So., 6-0, 160, R/R)

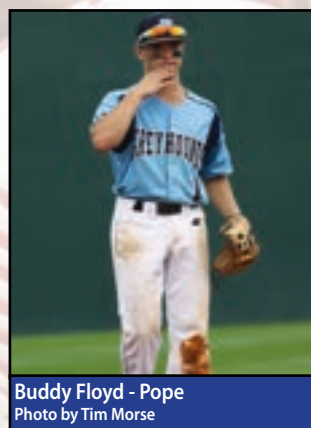
Season Outlook: After playing in the state championship series the past two seasons and winning the state title in 2017, Pope may be in for a little rebuilding. But they will still be dangerous. Some pitchers must develop, but the infield will be solid as second baseman Antonio Jareno, shortstop Buddy Floyd and first baseman Caden Smith all return. The versatile Connor Frost is also back.



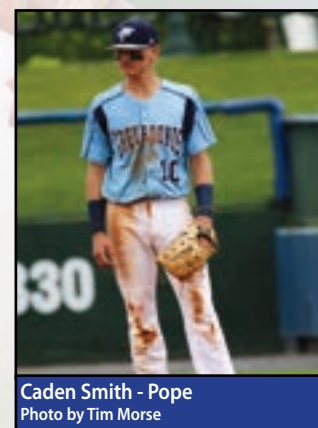
Antonio Jareno
Pope



Max Pralgo
Pope



Buddy Floyd - Pope
Photo by Tim Morse



Caden Smith - Pope
Photo by Tim Morse



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REGION 8-6A

Region Favorite: Winder-Barrow

Players to Watch

- LHP** – Adam Benefield, Sr., Gainesville
- CF/RHP** – Sam Darling, Jr., Winder-Barrow
- SS/RHP** – Banks Griffith, Sr., Gainesville
- OF** – Hunter Ingle, Sr., Habersham Central
- SS** – Jady Jackson, Jr., Lanier
- LHP/OF** – Trace Jeffers, Jr., Winder-Barrow
- INF/RHP** – Jarrett Jenkins, So., Dacula
- OF/LHP** – Jarred Jones, Sr., Habersham Central
- 1B** – Hunter Linhart, Sr., Apalachee
- INF/RHP** – Jojo Lopez, Jr., Dacula
- RHP** – Zach Murray, So., Lanier
- INF/RHP** – Tanner Nichols, Sr., Dacula
- RHP/3B** – Collier Scott, Sr., Gainesville
- C** – Jared Smith, Sr., Gainesville
- 3B/RHP** – Zack Smith, Jr., Winder-Barrow
- 2B/SS** – Cameron Wilson, Sr., Gainesville

APALACHEE WILDCATS

Head Coach: Allan Bailey
Assistant Coach (s): Russ Hodsdon, Kyle Bailey, Casey Innis
2017 Record: 19-12
Returning Starters: 1B Hunter Linhart (Sr., 6-2, 210, R/R); 2B DJ Smith (Sr., 6-1, 195, R/R); RHP/OF Parker Miller (Sr., 6-3, 220, R/R); OF Ryan Crocker (Sr., 6-2, 170, R/R); RHP Jarrett Wallace (Sr., 6-1, 185, R/R); SS Emory Witt (Sr., 5-9, 180, L/R); RHP/1B Dawson Matherly (Sr., 6-1, 225, R/R); 3B Chase Chancey (Jr., 5-11, 190, R/R)
Other Returning Players: RHP/INF Alex Cook (Jr., 5-10, 210, R/R); C Jake Hopkins (Jr., 5-10, 225, R/R); RHP/INF Hunter Parks (So., 5-10, 150, R/R); RHP/OF Nate Hodnett (So., 6-3, 215, R/R)
Season Outlook: A solid senior class should help Apalachee improve upon last season's finish. The Wildcats return eight starters, including first base standout Hunter Linhart. Pitching could be a strength as Parker Miller, Jarrett Wallace and Dawson Matherly all return.

DACULA FALCONS

Head Coach: Scott Gaffney
Assistant Coach (s): Zach Black, Steve Crumley, Matthew Ludewig, Blake Watkins, Gant Davis, Russ Parrish
2017 Record: 19-12
Returning Starters: INF/RHP Jarrett Jenkins (So., 6-0, 175, R/R); INF/RHP Tanner Nichols (Sr., 6-2, 205, R/R); INF/RHP Jojo Lopez (Jr., 6-2, 210, R/R); INF/RHP Marcerio Allen (Jr., 6-0, 190, B/R); C/DH Henry Helfrich (Jr., 6-2, 190, R/R); RHP Gage Felton (Jr.,



Marcerio Allen
Dacula



Jarrett Jenkins
Dacula

6-2, 170, R/R); RHP Tyler Benton (Sr., 6-2, 190, R/R)
Other Returning Players: U Samuel Greenberg (Sr., 6-0, 170, R/R); INF Anderson Bailey (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/R); RHP Trey Robinson (Sr., 5-11, 165, R/R)

Top Newcomers: OF/RHP Zach Devries (So., 5-11, 160, R/R); OF/INF Alex Ash (Sr., 5-8, 155, R/R); INF/RHP Dylan Noce (Fr., 6-2, 180, R/R); RHP Jacob Lawson (Sr., 5-10, 170, R/R); OF/LHP Jackson Smith (Jr., 6-2, 175, L/L)
Season Outlook: Look for Dacula to pick up from where it left off last season. The Falcons won 19 games and made the state playoffs last year. Seven starters are back, including senior Tanner Nichols. Junior Jojo Lopez and sophomore Jarrett Jenkins return after strong seasons in 2017. Keep an eye on a strong junior class who will be expected to contribute.



Jojo Lopez
Dacula

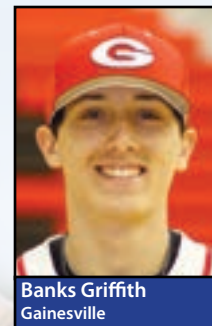


Tanner Nichols
Dacula

GAINESVILLE RED ELEPHANTS

Head Coach: Jeremy Kemp
Assistant Coach (s): Adam Miller, Steven Cornett
2017 Record: 22-9

Returning Starters: SS/RHP Banks Griffith (Sr., 6-1, 175, R/R); RHP/3B Collier Scott (Sr., 6-0, 165, R/R); C Jared Smith (Sr., 5-11, 160, R/R); 2B/SS Cameron Wilson (Sr., 5-9, 155, R/R); OF Charlie Wall (Sr., 5-11, 205, R/R); 3B/SS Dalton Kyle (Jr., 5-9, 175, R/R); RHP/1B Kyle York (Jr., 6-0, 180, R/R); 1B/OF Cale Conley (Jr., 6-5, 220, R/R)
Other Returning Players: RHP Jay Hinshaw (Sr., 5-11, 160, R/R); RHP/OF Noah Bond (Sr., 5-11, 160, R/R); LHP Adam Benefield (Sr., 6-3, 160, L/L); LHP/OF Clay Coffey (Sr., 5-8, 165, L/L); OF Corbin Lindsay (Jr., 5-10, 170, R/R); U Ben Still (Jr., 5-8, 175, R/R); C/OF Jackson Kemp (So., 6-0, 180, R/R)
Season Outlook: A solid senior class returns to lead the way for Gainesville who will be expected to contend for the region crown. All-state shortstop/pitcher Banks Griffith is back as well as pitcher/third baseman Collier Scott and catcher Jared Smith. Right-hander Kyle York is also back after a promising sophomore campaign.



Banks Griffith
Gainesville

HABERSHAM CENTRAL RAIDERS

Head Coach: Chris Akridge
Assistant Coach (s): Wesley Satterfield, Patrick Mayfield
2017 Record: 14-16

Returning Starters: OF/LHP Jarred Jones (Sr., 5-10, 185, L/L); INF/RHP Colby Jones (Jr., 6-1, 170, R/R); INF Hogan Pitts (Jr., 5-11, 165, R/R); OF Hunter Ingle (Sr., 6-1, 185, R/R)
Other Returning Players: INF/RHP Peyton Irvin (Jr., 5-10, 180, R/R); OF/RHP Shandon Lee (Sr., 5-10, 200, R/R); C Joey Gonzalez (Jr., 5-11, 235, R/R); INF/RHP Dalton Munroe (Sr., 5-9, 145, R/R)
Season Outlook: The Raiders showed significant improvement last season, and they hope to continue to make positive strides this spring. Four starters are back, including a pair of seniors in outfielder/pitcher Jarred Jones and outfielder Hunter Ingle.

LANIER LONGHORNS

Head Coach: Jonathan Wyman

Assistant Coach (s): Kiley Coursey, Jovanni Cruz, Josh Link, Ryan Hill

2017 Record: 8-22

Returning Starters: SS Jady Jackson (Jr., 5-10, 165, R/R); RHP Zach Murray (So., 5-11, 155, R/R); C Chase Coursey (So., 5-9, 150, R/R); RHP Parker Marcantel (Sr., 5-9, 180, R/R); OF/LHP Thomas Prince (Sr., 6-0, 155, L/L); OF Austin Paschall (Sr., 5-11, 140, R/R)

Other Returning Players: INF Alex Boodram (Jr., 5-5, 150, R/R); C Cole Kilgore (Jr., 5-10, 155, R/R); OF Trevor Morelock (Sr., 5-11, 150, R/R); INF Ben Saxon (So., 5-8, 145, R/R); INF Sergio Vargas (Sr., 5-7, 165, R/R)

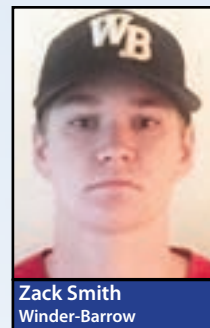
Season Outlook: Lanier hopes to rebound from last season's disappointing finish. Six starters are back, including two of the team's top pitchers from last season in right-handers Parker Marcantel and Zach Murray. Shortstop Jady Jackson returns to spark the offense.

Other Returning Players: LHP Austin

Lockridge (Jr., 6-0, 230, L/L); 1B/OF/RHP Lance Sikes (Jr., 6-1, 220, R/R)

Top Newcomers: SS/RHP Brady House (Fr., 6-3, 195, R/R); U Hunter Marsh (So., 6-1, 190, R/R); LHP/OF Trace Jeffers (Jr., 6-1, 190, L/L)

Season Outlook: After winning 30 games last season, Winder-Barrow has some key positions to fill this spring. Only three starters are back, but some talented underclassmen will compete for playing time. Infielder/pitcher Zack Smith and pitcher/outfielder Sam Darling return. The transfer of former Prince Avenue Christian standout Trace Jeffers will help out.



Zack Smith
Winder-Barrow

WINDER-BARROW BULLDOGGS

Head Coach: Brian Smith

Assistant Coach (s):

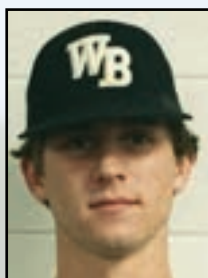
John Scoville, Will Bartlett, Cris Cook

2017 Record: 30-4

Returning Starters: C Jackson Melton (Sr., 5-10, 170, R/R); 3B/RHP Zack Smith (Jr., 6-2, 195, L/R); CF/RHP Sam Darling (Jr., 6-0, 170, R/R)



Sam Darling
Winder-Barrow



Trace Jeffers
Winder-Barrow



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lee.stallings.nysa@statefarm.com



Patrick Scarbrough, Agent
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Thomasville, GA 31792
Bus: 229-226-3131

patrick.j.scarbrough.un7x@statefarm.com



Chad Sumner, Agent
2402 Tift Ave N
Tifton, GA 31794
Bus: 229-382-1195

chad.sumner.l910@statefarm.com



Brian Huling, Agent
4197 Second Street, N
Folkston, GA 31537
Bus: 912-496-7351

brian.huling.chmt@statefarm.com



Andy Thomas, Agent
255 Carl Vinson Parkway
Warner Robins, GA 31088
Bus: 478-975-0069
andy.thomas.j12h@statefarm.com



Brent Dixon, Agent
119 S Parrish Avenue
Adel, GA 31620
Bus: 229-896-2257
brent.dixon.rd9l@statefarm.com



Chance C Veazey, Agent
1601 Us Highway 41 N
Tifton, GA 31794
Bus: 229-472-1495
chance.veazey.e3vu@statefarm.com



John Dawson, Agent
37 W. Jefferson St.
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Ahead of schedule

Young Loganville wins third title since 2008

By Tim Morse

Rhett Mixon won't forget the Saturday morning after Loganville lost a 2-1 eight-inning game the previous night at the Perfect Game Showdown in early March.

The contest, which ended well after midnight, dropped the Red Devils to 2-8.

"We kind of fell apart," Mixon said of the Red Devils' 2-1 loss to East Paulding. "We had to play early the next morning and I remember we left the ball bucket in the parking lot and one of the parents had to bring it to us.

"Coach ran us so much that morning. He said we had no leadership on the team."

Loganville rebounded in the tournament and defeated Houston County and scored a nine-inning win over Redan, triggering an 11-game winning streak. After the loss to East Paulding in Emerson, Ga., the Red Devils won 18 of their next 20, captured the Region 8-5A title and rolled into the state playoffs.

They swept Lithia Springs before ousting Ola, Veterans and Starr's Mill in three-game series. Loganville then swept Wayne County at Grayson Stadium in Savannah, winning its third state title since 2008 with a 30-13 record.

Mixon believed that Saturday morning at the Perfect Game Showdown was the turning point in the season. The Red Devils played a brutal nonregion schedule that he said prepared them for the season.

"Coach (Jeff) Segars wanted it to be that way," said Mixon, who graduated and is now playing football and baseball at LaGrange College. "That tough schedule prepared us for the playoffs."

After Loganville lost in three games to Houston County in the Class 5A state championship series in 2016, most of the experience left too. Not many expected Loganville to make it back to the state championship series.

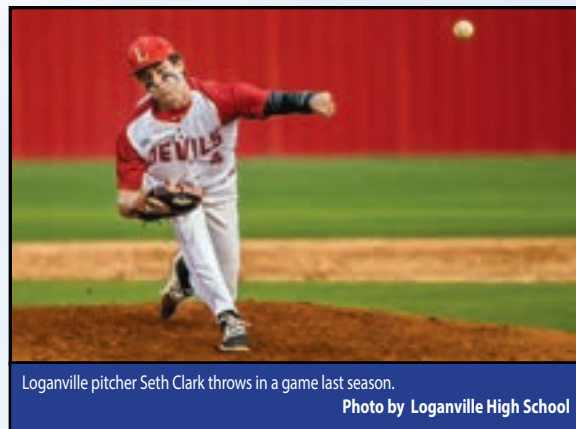
"Oh yeah, Coach (Bran) Mills told us we were the underdogs," said pitcher Joseph Brandon, the Georgia Dugout Preview Magazine's Class 5A Player of the Year in 2017. "And we were treated like the underdogs. He told us we needed to get the eyes back on us."

Despite most of the team playing together in travel baseball and in the recreation leagues, there were many holes to fill. Segars said the coaching staff felt pretty good in the outfield with Mixon and Marcellus Campbell returning.

And the Red Devils had three quality starters consisting of Brandon, Bay Witcher and Seth Clark, who won every Game 3 the Red Devils played in the state playoffs and allowed just one earned run in the three combined games.

The bullpen was strong with Michael Knight, Blake Stowe and Gavin Swords. Bryant Pietri was the team's closer.

Catcher Morgan Copeland returned behind the plate.



Loganville pitcher Seth Clark throws in a game last season.

Photo by Loganville High School



Members of the Loganville team are, **Front Row** (r-l), Jake Daniel, Gavin Swords, Brady Abrahamson, Cameron Wright, Ian King, Rhett Mixon, Marcellus Campbell, Blake Stowe, Cole McGaughey, Kyle Smyrl. **Middle Row** (r-l), Trainer Kevin Piland, Head Coach Jeff Segars, Coach Mike Ryan, Manager Jackson Lowe, Cody Powell, Jacob King, Seth Clark, Dawson Ballard. **Back Row** (l-r), Coach Matt Milligan, Coach Chad McGaughey, Coach Andy Sargeant, Manager Tucker Green, Blaine Marchman, Lance Spooner, Parker Kimery, Gabe Knight, Justin Moss, Michael Knight, Connor Bruce, Matthew Popp, Jackson Howell, Jacob Boyd, Joseph Brandon, Bay Witcher, Michael Northcutt, Dylan Strickland, Morgan Copeland, Bryant Pietri, Gage Williams, Coach Bran Mills, Coach Brandon Anglin

Photo by Loganville High School

But the coaching staff wasn't as certain with the infield. Gabe Knight was the only returner with any infield experience from 2016. But he was limited to mainly playing second base or being the designated hitter to start the 2017 season due to an injury from the summer.

Freshman Dylan Strickland, Brandon and Pietri played the left side of the infield while seniors Brady Abrahamson and Dawson Ballard played second base. Justin Moss was the primary first baseman along with Pietri.

"We felt like we would be okay offensively," Segars said. "But we needed to play solid defense and make the routine plays."

Some speculated Loganville won the state championship a year ahead of schedule. Of the 24 players on the team's roster, 18 were underclassmen.

"I'm not sure a lot of people expected us to win it," Segars said. "Starr's Mill, Locust Grove were two teams I thought were the favorites. But we figured out a way to get a split on that first day against Starr's Mill, then won Game 3."

Then they swept Wayne County for the title. And along the way, they never forget how far they came, especially after that 2-8 start.

Class 5A Top 15



LOGANVILLE

The Red Devils won the Class 5A state title in 2017, a year ahead of what many expected. Loganville survived a brutal early-season schedule, regrouped and rolled to another state championship. The good news for Red Devil fans is that the majority of the talent returns, including all of its top pitchers and most of an offense that has the potential to be explosive.

Georgia Dugout Preview Magazine Class 5A Player of the Year Joseph Brandon returns on the hill as well as Bay Witcher. Brandon and Witcher could be the state's top 1-2 pitching punch this year. Unsung hero Seth Clark, who was the team's postseason star, also returns along with lights-out closer Bryant Pietri.

Around the diamond, first baseman Justin Moss, shortstop Dylan Strickland and third baseman Gabe Knight are all back, as well as catcher Blaine Marchman.

Outfielder Jacob Boyd returns and former North Oconee standout Tanner Green is expected to help add to an already impressive team.

The 2008, 2012 and 2017 state championship squads were good. The 2018 edition has a chance to be the best of them all.



WAYNE COUNTY

The Yellow Jackets made some adjustments midway through the season last year, got hot and made a run to the state championship series before finishing as the state runner-up. Most of that talent is back, including a deep pitching rotation that will keep Wayne County in the chase. Perhaps no team in Class 5A boasts as much pitching as the Jackets. Ford Townsend, J.T. Crosby and Cade Lambert lead a lethal rotation.



CARROLLTON

This could potentially be Carrollton's best team since the Trojans won their last state title in 2014. They made it to the state quarterfinals last season and look to build off that successful run. Carrollton has the offense as well as a strong pitching combination in Rhett Daniel and Jared Soliz. Plus, pitcher Will Carney, who sat out last season due to move-in rules, will help out an already strong rotation.



BUFORD

Former Cartersville Hall of Fame coach Stuart Chester inherits a Buford program with enough talent to contend for a state baseball championship. The Wolves definitely have the offense to compete with the best of them, including Noah Ledford, Austin Turner and Garrison Price. The pitching staff will also be strong as Ramsey David, Sean Adams and Garrett Glover return.



STARR'S MILL

The Panthers made the state semifinals last year and have the talent to duplicate last year's run. The offense will keep Starr's Mill in the hunt as shortstop Brian Port, infielder Mitchell Sutton and catcher Charlie Mizzell return. The Panthers need a couple of more arms to go along with Hayes Heinecke and Nathan Price. If Starr's Mill finds them, look out.



VETERANS

The Warhawks have the potential to make another deep postseason run. This program has been very consistent since its inception. Veterans has one of the state's top catchers in Leyton Pinckney and two strong pitchers in right-handers Derek Wylie and Ben Gibbs. This team could be trouble.



OLA

A loaded pitching rotation could potentially help Ola to its best season in school history this spring. The Mustangs came on strong last year, including taking eventual state champion Loganville to a decisive third game in the second round of the state playoffs before falling last year. Senior Jordan Armstrong, junior Evan Boyle and sophomore Patrick Holloman, all left-handers, will be enough to keep Ola in the postseason chase.



LOCUST GROVE

The Wildcats put together a strong two-year run which included a state title in 2016 and a state semifinal appearance last spring. Locust Grove graduated a large senior class, but don't sleep on the Wildcats. Junior pitcher Nolan Crisp is still around and offensive leaders Austin Moody and Gavin Lee are also back. The Wildcats will still be tough.



FLOWERY BRANCH

Former Milton coach Joey Ray inherits a Flowery Branch team ready to make a statement. The Falcons are loaded on the mound, but the rotation will need to mature quickly. Offensively, Anthony Grutadaurio is as good as there is. He returns to spark a senior-oriented team that could be trouble this spring.



DECATUR

The Bulldogs boast some of metro Atlanta's exciting players as shortstop Jarrett Ford, infielder Tim Conway and pitcher/outfielder Oliver Livingston return. Decatur just needs a few more arms to go along with Livingston. The program has just put together two solid postseason runs the past two seasons. A third strong playoff run could be just around the corner.



HARRIS COUNTY

The Tigers made the second round of the state playoffs last season and look to build off that positive momentum. This should be Harris County's best team since 2012. The Tigers return enough pitching with Brandon Willoughby, Ross McKibben and Noah Lee to stay in the hunt. Look for this team to be tough.



UNION GROVE

The Wolverines have played consistent baseball during the past three seasons and 2018 won't be any different. A strong senior class will help Union Grove make another run at the playoffs. Pitchers Brady Couch and Adam Burnett along with a talented offense should help the Wolverines contend again.



JONES COUNTY

By their standards, Jones County's 19-14 record and first-round playoff loss was a disappointment. The Greyhounds did take eventual state runner-up Wayne County to three games in the first round of the postseason last year before falling. Jones looks to capitalize on that positive momentum. Enough talent is back for the Greyhounds to make a statement.



WALNUT GROVE

The Warriors began to play well late in the 2017 season, and they hope to capitalize on that momentum this spring. They took quarterfinalist Decatur to a decisive third game in the first round of the postseason before falling. With seven starters back, Walnut Grove could be a sleeper coming out of the rugged Region 8-5A.



ARABIA MOUNTAIN

The Rams won the Region 5-5A title last season and should have a chance to be even better. The Rams boast a solid lineup full of offensive playmakers. If the pitching can perform consistently, Arabia Mountain could be a team that nobody wants to play.

Others to watch: (Alphabetical Order) East Paulding, Kell, McIntosh, South Effingham, Thomas County Central, Villa Rica, Whitewater

CLASS 5A PRESEASON ALL STATE

First Team

Name	Position	Grade	School	Comment
Jordan Armstrong	Pitcher	Senior	Ola	Can take over the game
Joseph Brandon	Pitcher	Senior	Loganville	Makes hitters look bad
Nolan Crisp	Pitcher	Junior	Locust Grove	Still a dominating pitcher
Rhett Daniel	Pitcher	Senior	Carrollton	Tough on the opposition
Jared Soliz	Pitcher	Senior	Carrollton	Dominates when he's on the hill
Ford Townsend	Pitcher	Senior	Wayne County	Big righty knows what he's doing
Bay Witcher	Pitcher	Senior	Loganville	Tough to hit, tougher to beat
Noah Ledford	Catcher	Senior	Buford	Provides a spark wherever he plays
Leyton Pinckney	Catcher	Senior	Veterans	Great hitter, defender; better leader
Tim Conway	Infielder	Senior	Decatur	Contact hitter who can also hit for power
J.T. Crosby	Infielder	Senior	Wayne County	Smooth defender also strong pitcher
Jarrett Ford	Infielder	Senior	Decatur	Strong bat, better glove
Anthony Grutadaurio	Infielder	Senior	Flowery Branch	Makes things happen at plate
Brian Port	Infielder	Junior	Starr's Mill	As good as there is on the diamond
Dylan Strickland	Infielder	Sophomore	Loganville	Smooth player can go
Tanner Green	Outfielder	Senior	Loganville	Makes everyone better around him
Gavin Lee	Outfielder	Senior	Locust Grove	Offensive catalyst and solid defender
Austin Moody	Outfielder	Senior	Locust Grove	Excellent player on good team
Teldrick Ross	Outfielder	Senior	Jones County	Speedster makes plenty of plays
Austin Turner	Outfielder	Junior	Buford	Only will get better
Silas Butler	Designated Hitter	Senior	Arabia Mountain	Dangerous player
Seth Clark	Utility	Senior	Loganville	A guy you want on your team

Second Team

Pitchers – Evan Boyle, Jr., Ola; Ramsey David, Jr., Buford; Ben Gibbs, Sr., Veterans; Hayes Heinecke, Sr., Starr's Mill; Bryant Pietri, Sr., Loganville; Jakob Valleroy, Jr., South Effingham; Derek Wylie, Sr., Veterans; **Catchers** – Blaine Marchman, Jr., Loganville; Brandon Willoughby, Sr., Harris County; **Infielders** – Jalyn Hawkins, Sr., Arabia Mountain; Will Kelley, Sr., Bainbridge; Corey King, Sr., Arabia Mountain; Gabe Knight, Sr., Loganville; Jackson NeSmith, Sr., Thomas County Central; Griffin Price, Sr., Buford; **Outfielders** – Tramaine Callaway, Sr., Columbia; Cade Lambert, Sr., Wayne County; Oliver Livingston, Sr., Decatur; James Maudlin, Jr., Wayne County; Garrison Price, Sr., Buford; **Designated Hitter** – Elijah Hammonds, Sr., Columbia; **Utility** – Cooper Martin, Jr., Wayne County

REGION 1-5A

Region Favorite: Veterans

Players to Watch

INF/LHP – Nick Barber, Jr., Bainbridge
OF – Caleb Boutwell, Sr., Bainbridge
INF/OF – Zach Fletcher, Jr., Thomas County Central
RHP/3B – Ben Gibbs, Sr., Veterans
1B/RHP – Dalton Hedden, Sr., Warner Robins
OF – Nick Herndon, Jr., Thomas County Central
1B/RHP – Ben Johnson, Sr., Warner Robins
3B – Will Kelley, Sr., Bainbridge
SS – Tyler Mayfield, Sr., Veterans
OF/RHP – Ross McKibben, Sr., Harris County
INF – Jackson NeSmith, Sr., Thomas County Central
C – Leyton Pinckney, Sr., Veterans
3B/DH – Bryce Pittmon, Sr., Harris County
INF/C – Brandon Willoughby, Sr., Harris County
RHP/OF – Derek Wylie, Sr., Veterans

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BAINBRIDGE BEARCATS

Head Coach: Brian McCorkle

Assistant Coach (s): Joe Dollar, Jayson Hurst, Donnie Lee Coxwell, Blake Cecil

2017 Record: 17-14

Returning Starters: INF/RHP Will Kelley (Sr., 5-10, 200, R/R); OF/RHP Caleb Boutwell (Sr., 5-10, 190, R/R); INF Conner Strickland (Sr., 6-0, 200, R/R); OF/RHP Dalton Harrell (Sr., 6-2, 170, R/R); INF/RHP Griffin Long (Sr., 5-11, 195, R/R); INF/LHP Nick Barber (Jr., 6-1, 235, R/L); INF/RHP Walt Burrell (Sr., 6-0, 230, R/R)

Other Returning Players: C Bowen Dodson (Jr., 5-10, 205, R/R); OF/RHP Cayden Sconyers (Jr., 6-0, 170, R/R); INF/RHP Kaleb Varnum (So., 6-3, 160, R/R); INF Sam Boutwell (So., 6-0, 180, R/R)

Season Outlook: A solid senior class will lead the way for Bainbridge, who will challenge for a postseason berth again. Seven starters, six of them seniors, return. Third baseman Will Kelley and outfielder Caleb Boutwell return to lead the offense, while pitcher Nick Barber will lead a talented pitching rotation.



Will Kelley
Bainbridge

HARRIS COUNTY TIGERS

Head Coach: Steve Westmoreland

Assistant Coach (s): Tracy Powell, Matt Ward, Adam Bright, Jamie Fox, Zach Moss, Sammie Mathis

2017 Record: 25-9

Returning Starters: RHP/INF Brandon Willoughby (Sr.); 3B/DH Bryce Pittmon (Sr.); OF/RHP Ross McKibben (Sr.); LHP Noah Lee (Sr.); OF Jason Whearley (Sr.)

Other Returning Players: C Will Howard (Jr.); RHP/OF Peyton McLemore (Jr.); 1B/RHP Daniel Miller (Jr.); RHP Brandon King (Sr.)

Top Newcomers: SS/2B Timmy Brooks (Jr.); C Cole Stanford (So.); OF John Moxley (Jr.); OF/RHP Kaleb Watson (Jr.)

Season Outlook: The Tigers won 25 games and made the state playoffs last year. Look for Harris County to contend for the region title this spring. Five starters are back, all of them seniors. Pitchers Brandon Willoughby, Ross McKibben and Noah Lee return to form a strong rotation.



Brandon Willoughby
Harris County

THOMAS COUNTY CENTRAL YELLOW JACKETS

Head Coach: Ryan Strickland (new)

Assistant Coach (s):

Travis Barrett, Chris Buckhalter, Trey Harrell, Devyn Newberry

2017 Record: 13-18

Returning Starters: INF Jackson NeSmith (Sr., 5-7, 155, L/R); OF Nick Herndon (Jr., 5-11, 150, L/R); INF/OF Pace Mercer (Jr., 5-11, 140, R/R); INF/OF Zach Fletcher (Jr., 5-7, 150, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Riley Jones (Sr., 5-10, 150, R/R); RHP/1B Blake Kirkendoll (Sr., 5-9, 160, R/R); C Tyler Carter (Jr., 5-9, 165, R/R);



Nick Herndon
Thomas County Central



Jackson NeSmith
Thomas County Central

OF Carson Odom (Jr., 5-9, 145, R/R); RHP/OF RJ Delaney (Jr., 6-1, 150, R/R); INF Andrew Carnes (Jr., 5-10, 165, R/R); LHP/1B Jaylen Jones (So., 5-9, 165, L/L); INF/OF Shane Stephenson (So., 5-6, 145, R/R); C Slade Taylor (So., 6-0, 160, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP Luke Benton (Jr., 6-1, 165, R/R)

Season Outlook: Former assistant Ryan Strickland takes over and inherits a young but talented team. The senior class is small, but a solid corps of underclassmen will be expected to step forward. Infielder Jackson NeSmith (.354 avg., 14 RBIs) returns to lead the offense. The Jackets must develop some pitching depth to contend.

VETERANS WARHAWKS

Head Coach: David Coffey

Assistant Coach (s):

Cody Reese, Matt Hvizdzak, Jeremy Downing, Frank Miller, Buddy Deal

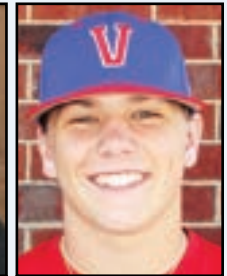
2017 Record: 27-11

Returning Starters: C Leyton Pinckney (Sr., 6-3, 215, R/R); 3B/C Jayden Chance (Jr., 5-5, 160, R/R); OF Jacob Pierce (Jr., 6-0, 170, R/R); OF Derek Wylie (Sr., 6-3, 220, R/R); RHP/3B Ben Gibbs (Sr., 6-4, 175, R/R); SS Tyler Mayfield (Sr., 5-7, 140, R/R)

Other Returning Players: LHP Daniel Hawthorne (Sr., 6-1, 170, R/L); RHP Cole Hooks (Jr., 6-0, 175, R/R); RHP/3B Jackson Williams (Jr., 6-4, 180, R/R); C/DH Matt Nunez (Jr., 6-1, 240, R/R)



Ben Gibbs
Veterans



Leyton Pinckney
Veterans

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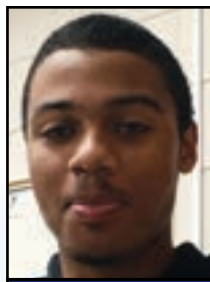
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Top Newcomers: OF Daniel Smith (So., 5-8, 145, R/R); OF/1B Mark Lauritsen (Fr., 5-8, 165, L/L); RHP Brent Robinson (Fr., 6-1, 155, L/R)

Season Outlook: Veterans will challenge for the region title again as six returning starters are back. Pitching will be strong as senior right-handers Derek Wylie and Ben Gibbs anchor a solid rotation. Catcher Leyton Pinckney returns to lead the offense.



Derek Wylie
Veterans

WARNER ROBINS DEMONS

Head Coach: Nathan James

Assistant Coach (s): Jordan Singletary, Kinnon Wildes, Jeremy Avery

2017 Record: 5-22

Returning Starters: 1B/RHP Dalton Hedden (Sr., 6-3, 290, R/R); 1B/RHP Ben Johnson (Sr., 5-10, 170, R/R); CF Xavier McIntyre (So., 5-9, 155, R/R); 3B/SS Reece Page (So., 5-9, 165, R/R); 2B/RHP Jared Cruse (Jr., 5-7, 150, R/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP Kaleb Kushinka (Sr., 5-11, 200, R/R); OF Jeremiah Havens (Jr., 5-10, 185, R/R)

Season Outlook: Look for Warner Robins to be much better this spring. The Demons welcome back five starters, including a pair of seniors who will lead the way – first baseman/pitcher Dalton Hedden and Ben Johnson. Some younger players will need to step forward.

REGION 2-5A

Region Favorite: Wayne County

Players to Watch

RHP/OF – Gage Bray, Sr., Ware County

RHP/INF – J.T. Crosby, Sr., Wayne County

RHP – Jasper Dubberly, Sr., Wayne County

RHP/OF – Cade Lambert, Sr., Wayne County

RHP/INF – Cooper Martin, Jr., Wayne County

RHP/U – James Maudlin, Jr., Wayne County

RHP – Blake McCollum, Sr., South Effingham

RHP/SS – Acy Paulk, Sr., Ware County

INF – Justin Ricketts, Sr., Statesboro

OF/RHP – Wright Rockett, Sr., Statesboro

C – Coleman Tanner, Sr., Ware County

RHP/OF – Brad Thomas, Sr., Wayne County

RHP/1B – Ford Townsend, Sr., Wayne County

RHP – Jakob Valleroy, Sr., South Effingham

INF – Davis Wiggins, Sr., Statesboro

C – Doug Williams, Sr., South Effingham

NEW HAMPSTEAD PHOENIX

Head Coach: Trey Lanier

Survey not returned

SOUTH EFFINGHAM MUSTANGS

Head Coach: Johnny DeRing

Assistant Coach (s): Mitchell Curry, Stephen Vaughn, Cory Klassen

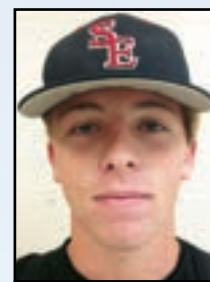
2017 Record: 17-12

Returning Starters: C Doug Williams (Sr., 5-10, 200, R/R); 3B Blake McCollum (Sr., 5-11, 175, R/R); RHP Jakob Valleroy (Jr., 5-10, 165, R/R); OF Jake Sapp (Sr., 5-9, 150, R/R)

Other Returning Players: U Wesley Ambrose (Sr., 5-8, 150, R/R); OF Caleb Radcliffe (Jr., 5-9, 150, R/R); U Grayson Spendiff (Jr., 6-0, 160, R/R); U Devin Stefanski (Jr., 5-10, 200, R/R)

Top Newcomers: OF/RHP Chase Warren (Jr., 6-1, 185, R/R); U Dylan Wallace (Jr., 5-8, 165, R/R)

Season Outlook: The Mustangs won 17 games in coach Johnny DeRing's first season last year. A solid senior class will provide strong leadership. Four returning starters are back to lead the way. Catcher Doug Williams and third baseman Blake McCollum return to lead the offense, while pitcher Jakob Valleroy returns after a promising sophomore season.



Jakob Valleroy
South Effingham

STATESBORO BLUE DEVILS

Head Coach: Jim Simmons

Assistant Coach (s): Russ Winter

2017 Record: 9-23

Returning Starters: OF/RHP Wright Rockett (Sr., 6-4, 190, R/R); INF Davis Wiggins (Sr., 6-3, 190, B/R); INF Justin Ricketts (Sr., 5-10, 150, L/R); RHP Dylan Ross (Jr., 6-4, 230, R/R)

Other Returning Players: INF/RHP Ben Pope (Sr., 6-5, 190, R/R); LHP Ashton Bradley (Sr., 5-10, 160, L/L); RHP Cole Leggett (Sr., 6-2, 180, R/R); OF Blake Stanford (Jr., 5-9, 155, L/R); RHP/C Brannen Faircloth (Jr., 6-0, 170, B/R)

Top Newcomers: INF Braden Mock (Jr., 6-2, 190, R/R); RHP/OF Bradley Gronefeld (Jr., 6-0, 160, L/R); C Jackson Hand (Jr., 5-10, 155, R/R)

Season Outlook: The Blue Devils look to shake off a disappointing finish in 2017. Four starters return, including a trio of seniors – outfielder/pitcher Wright Rockett and infielders Davis Wiggins and Justin Ricketts. Junior pitcher Dylan Ross leads a young but talented pitching rotation.

WARE COUNTY GATORS

Head Coach: Jamie Ammons (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Jason Smith, Bryce Johnson, Larry Turner

2017 Record: 11-20

Returning Starters: OF Jake Manders (Sr., 5-8, 145, R/R); 1B/RHP Jacob Hendrix (Sr., 6-2, 185, R/R); RHP/3B Victor Steedley (Sr., 5-10, 180, R/R); RHP/SS Acy Paulk (Sr., 6-2, 185, L/R); RHP/OF Gage Bray (Sr., 6-3, 190, R/R); C/RHP Coleman Tanner (Sr., 5-11, 185, R/R); INF Cole Andreoli (Sr., 5-10, 145, R/R); OF Jeremiah O'Hara (Jr., 5-8, 165, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF/DH Sergey Steedley (Jr., 5-10, 195, R/R); 1B Drew Johnson (Jr., 6-0, 225, R/R); INF John Smith (Jr., 5-9, 170, R/R); INF Logan Yeomans (Jr., 5-5, 185, R/R); INF Austin Pittman (Jr., 5-6, 120, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP/1B Derrin Cox (Sr., 6-3, 230, R/R)

Season Outlook: Former Appling County assistant coach Jamie Ammons takes over a Ware program that struggled last year. Ammons seeks to get the Gators back on track. He inherits eight returning starters, including pitchers Acy Paulk and Gage Bray. Catcher Coleman Cox also returns.

WAYNE COUNTY YELLOW JACKETS

Head Coach: Justin McDonald

Assistant Coach (s):

Jordan Mullis, Barret Browning, Mike Roberts, Colt Brockington

2017 Record: 29-14

Returning Starters:

RHP/1B Ford Townsend (Sr., 6-0, 220, R/R); RHP/INF J.T. Crosby (Sr., 5-10, 185, R/R); RHP/OF Cade Lambert (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/R); RHP/OF Jasper Dubberly (Sr., 6-0, 170, R/R); RHP Brice Miller (Jr., 6-2, 165, R/R); RHP/U Gant Starling (Jr., 5-11, 210, R/R); RHP/INF Cooper Martin (Jr., 5-10, 160, L/R); INF Griffin Boykin (Jr., 5-9, 180, R/R); RHP/U James Maudlin (Jr., 5-10, 170, R/R); C David Moseley (Jr., 5-9, 160, R/R)

Other Returning

Players: OF Griffin Clark

(Sr., 5-7, 155, R/R); OF Hamp Perkins (Jr., 5-8, 170, R/R); OF Kalijah Hartzog (So., 5-7, 150, R/R); OF Carson Poppell (Sr., 5-11, 165, L/R); C/1B Chase Bryant (Sr., 6-0, 205, R/R); OF Hagen Harter (Jr., 5-10, 175, R/R); C/1B Walker Jones (So., 6-1, 175, R/R)

Season Outlook: The defending state runner-ups will pick up from where they left off last season. A total of 10 returners are back, including pitchers J.T. Crosby (7-3, 2.07 ERA), Ford Townsend (5-4, 4.49 ERA) and Cade Lambert (2-0, 2.71 ERA). If the Jackets can find consistency on offense, they could make another deep run.



Griffin Boykin
Wayne County



J.T. Crosby
Wayne County



Cade Lambert
Wayne County



Cooper Martin
Wayne County



James Maudlin
Wayne County



Gant Starling
Wayne County

REGION 3-5A

Region Favorite: Starr's Mill

Players to Watch

3B/RHP – Ahmad Ali, Sr., Fayette County

1B – Darion Bennett, Sr., Morrow

1B/LHP/OF – Tyler Biltimier, Sr., McIntosh

INF – Justin Burdette, Sr., Whitewater

3B/RHP – Russell Carter, Sr., Griffin

LHP/INF – Hayes Heinecke, Sr., Starr's Mill

3B – Jared Hines, Sr., Morrow

SS/2B – Tyler Hunt, Sr., Griffin

OF/RHP – Jeremai Joseph, Sr., Fayette County

RHP/DH – Reid Kasten, Sr., Whitewater

1B/RHP – Devin Keene, Jr., Griffin

SS – Dane Kinamon, Jr., McIntosh

LHP – Connor Koscevic, Sr., McIntosh

C – Charlie Mizzell, Sr., Starr's Mill

CF/RHP – Andrew Pinckney, Jr., McIntosh

SS – Brian Port, Jr., Starr's Mill

INF – Mitchell Sutton, Sr., Starr's Mill

RHP/C – Chase Townsend, Jr., Whitewater

CF – Bilalian Whittle, Sr., Morrow

FAYETTE COUNTY TIGERS

Head Coach: Matthew Coldiron

Assistant Coach (s): Shane Dorrity, Rick Miller

2017 Record: 11-11

Returning Starters: 3B/RHP Ahmad Ali (Sr., 6-2, 230, R/R); OF/RHP Jeremai Joseph (Sr., 6-1, 150, R/R); C Davis Mokry (Sr., 5-7, 135, R/R); OF Brandon Burns (Sr., 5-9, 160, R/R); SS/RHP Andrew Hodges (Sr., 5-8, 155, R/R); 1B/LHP Zach Scott (Jr., 5-9, 185, L/L)

Other Returning Players: OF Ty're Dixon (Jr., 5-9, 140, R/R); OF/RHP Darryl Hicks (Sr., 6-0, 130, R/R); 1B/RHP Spencer Hulsey (Sr., 6-0, 230, R/R); INF/RHP Tucker Dorrity (Jr., 5-9, 135, R/R)

Top Newcomers: C/3B/RHP Jerious Reynolds (Fr., 5-9, 155, R/R); RHP/OF Tyler Patrick (So., 6-0, 160, R/R)

Season Outlook: A solid class of seniors should help Fayette County improve upon last season's finish. Six starters, five of them seniors, return to lead the way. Leading hitters Ahmad Ali and Jeremai Joseph return to lead the offense. The Tigers need some pitchers to step forward.

GRIFFIN BEARS

Head Coach: Andrew Calhoun

Assistant Coach (s): Tony Miller, Brandon Byram, Pierce Barkley, Terry Callahan

2017 Record: 18-12

Returning Starters: SS/2B Tyler Hunt (Sr., 5-11, 175, R/R); 3B/RHP Russell Carter (Sr., 5-11, 185, R/R); 1B/RHP Devin Keene (Jr., 6-4, 245, R/R); OF/INF Christian Durham (So., 5-11, 170, B/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Tydee Jackson (Sr., 5-9, 165, R/R); C

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Jacob Hillis (Jr., 6-0, 175, B/R); 3B/OF Terry Callahan (Sr., 6-1, 170, R/R)
Top Newcomers: 2B/SS D.D. Callahan (So., 5-8, 165, R/R); 1B/RHP Evan Betsill (So., 6-2, 165, R/R); OF Seth Bridges (So., 5-10, 175, R/R); OF Jordan Forde (Jr., 5-7, 160, L/L); OF Austin Bailey (So., 5-10, 165, R/R)
Season Outlook: After winning 18 games last year, Griffin may be rebuilding in 2018. The Bears are loaded with younger players that will need to mature. Four starters are back, including first baseman/pitcher Devin Keene. Seniors Tyler Hunt and Russell Carter return to provide veteran leadership.

MCINTOSH CHIEFS

Head Coach: David Munoz

Assistant Coach (s): Keith Chabot, Tom Rosa, Brad Yarbrough

2017 Record: 22-15

Returning Starters: CF/RHP Andrew Pinckney (Jr., 6-2, 185, R/R); SS Dane Kinamon (Jr., 5-11, 180, R/R); 1B/LHP Ethan Ange (Sr., 6-0, 200, L/L); C Dakota Rowan (Jr., 6-2, 200, R/R); 2B Ryan Sanders (Jr., 5-11, 190, R/R); LF Mitch Maxwell (Sr., 6-2, 200, L/R)

Other Returning Players: RF/LHP Ty Butler (Jr., 5-9, 170, R/L); 2B/3B Joseph Lopez (Sr., 5-9, 150, R/R); 1B/LHP/OF Tyler Biltimier (Sr., 6-2, 185, L/L); LHP Connor Koscevic (Sr., 5-11, 170, L/L); RHP/OF Jack Brown (So., 6-0, 175, R/R); OF Ashton Angier (Sr., 6-0, 190, R/R)

Top Newcomers: LHP Burke Berry (Fr., 6-0, 170, L/L)

Season Outlook: McIntosh will be solid as usual. The Chiefs have six returning starters and the pitching staff should be tough as left-handers Connor Koscevic (5-1, 2.06 ERA) and Tyler Biltimier (2-0, 1.13 ERA) return. Juniors Andrew Pinckney and Dane Kinamon return to lead the offense.

MORROW MUSTANGS

Head Coach: Rod Dunlap

Assistant Coach (s): TBA

2017 Record: 6-19

Returning Starters: 1B Darion Bennett (Sr., L/L); CF Bilalian Whittle (Sr., R/R); 3B Jared Hines (Sr., R/R); RF Kenneth Stallworth (Sr., L/L); C Devin Guillory (So., R/R)

Other Returning Players: RF Reginald Howard (Sr., R/R); RF Xavier Goodwine (Sr., L/L); 3B Shamikal Scott (Jr., R/R); LF Treyven Wright (So., R/R); LF Randarious Hamm (So., R/R); 2B Caleb Newton (Jr., R/R)

Top Newcomers: 2B DeAndre Wade (Jr., R/R); SS Randez Hamm (So., R/R)

Season Outlook: The Mustangs hope to continue taking positive steps. Morrow welcomes back five starters, four of them seniors. First baseman Darion Bennett, third baseman Jared Hines and outfielder Bilalian Whittle are back to lead the way.

RIVERDALE RAIDERS

Head Coach: Hunter Edmundson (new)

Survey not returned

STARR'S MILL PANTHERS

Head Coach: Brent Moseley

Assistant Coach (s): David Cooper, Jeff Klein, Greg Woodward

2017 Record: 32-6

Returning Starters: LHP/1B Hayes Heinecke (Sr., 6-0, 205, L/L); INF Mitchell Sutton (Sr., 6-2,



Hayes Heinecke
Starr's Mill



Brian Port
Starr's Mill

175, R/R); C Charlie Mizzell (Sr., 6-0, 215, R/R); OF Jake Blinstrub (Sr., 5-9, 160, L/R); OF Cole Gilley (Sr., 5-10, 200, R/R); SS Brian Port (Jr., 5-11, 170, L/R); RHP/1B Nathan Price (Sr., 6-0, 195, R/R)

Other Returning Players: INF/OF Michael Norton (Sr., 5-11, 165; R/R); C Ryan Henderson (Jr., 5-10, 180, R/R); RHP/OF Hunter Lawson (So., 5-10, 170, R/R)

Season Outlook: The Panthers should have a chance to duplicate last year's record as a strong group of underclassmen return. Seven starters are back, including pitcher Hayes Heinecke (3-3, 3.34 ERA) and offensive leaders Mitchell Sutton (.362 avg., 7 2B), Charlie Mizzell (.358 avg., 6 2B) and all-state shortstop Brian Port.

WHITEWATER WILDCATS

Head Coach: Rusty Bennett

Assistant Coach (s): Tim Trammell, Evan Bryant, Robert Townsend

2017 Record: 16-16

Returning Starters: INF Justin Burdette (Sr., R/R); RHP/DH Reid Kasten (Sr., R/R); C Dalton Goodman (Sr., R/R); RHP Ryan Whelan (Sr., R/R); RHP Jacob Hawkins (Sr., R/R); RHP Miles Langston (Sr., R/R); OF Thomas McKenzie (Jr., L/L); INF TJ Berry (Sr., R/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP Dylan Goodman (Sr., R/R); OF Maddox Mueller (So., R/R); INF Landon Busby (Jr., R/R); INF Dylan Morris (Jr., R/R); RHP Robbie Lunsford (Sr., R/R); DH/3B Grayson Samples (Sr., R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP/C Chase Townsend (Jr., R/R); RHP Jacob Allen (Jr., R/R)

Season Outlook: Whitewater should be back in the postseason chase after finishing .500 last spring. Eight starters are back. Infielder Justin Burdette and pitcher/designated hitter Reid Kasten return. Newcomer Chase Townsend is a player to keep an eye on.

REGION 4-5A

Region Favorite: Ola

Players to Watch

RHP – Jordan Armstrong, Sr., Ola

C/DH – Jacob Beach, Sr., Union Grove

LHP – Evan Boyle, Jr., Ola

2B/RHP – KJ Brooks, So., Stockbridge

LHP – Brody Couch, Sr., Union Grove

RHP – Nolan Crisp, Jr., Locust Grove

OF/LHP/1B – Michael Harris, Jr., Stockbridge

INF – Khalil Hassan, Jr., Woodland-Henry

LHP/1B – Patrick Holloman, So., Ola

INF – Jalen Jones, Sr., Union Grove

OF – Gavin Lee, Sr., Locust Grove

INF – Jackson Mix, Sr., Jones County

OF – Austin Moody, Sr., Locust Grove

RHP/1B – Hunter Pierce, Sr., Jones County

CF – Justin Robinson, Sr., Dutchtown

OF – Teldrick Ross, Sr., Jones County

INF – Chaz Salter, Jr., Ola

DUTCHTOWN BULLDOGS

Head Coach: TBA

Assistant Coach (s): TBA

2017 Record: 20-8

Returning Starters: CF Justin Robinson (Sr., 5-9, 170, R/R); RHP/OF Lennox Francis (Sr., 5-11, 185, R/R); RHP/C Justin Brooks (Sr., 6-3, 180, R/R); 3B Alexander Humphrey (Sr., 6-0, 240, R/R); 1B Tadarious Burton (Sr., 6-0, 235, R/R); RHP/INF Michael Corrales (Jr., 5-10, 225, R/R); RHP/INF Jaquan Timmons (Sr., 5-11, 165, R/R)

Season Outlook: At press time, Dutchtown had not named a new baseball coach. The Bulldogs won 20 games last year and have enough returning talent to contend for the postseason. Seven starters, six of them seniors, return. Outfielder Justin Robinson is back to lead the team.

EAGLES LANDING EAGLES

Head Coach: Ronney Daniels (new)

Survey not returned

HAMPTON HORNETS

Head Coach: John Huffman

Survey not returned

JONES COUNTY GREYHOUNDS

Head Coach: Jason Page

Assistant Coach (s): Jay Jones, Mike Paulk, Wally Prichard, Ryan Belshan

2017 Record: 19-14

Returning Starters: OF Teldrick Ross (Sr., 6-1, 190, R/R); INF Jackson Mix (Sr., 5-9, 165, L/R); RHP/1B Hunter Pierce (Sr., 6-1, 190, L/R); RHP/C/1B Seth Daniels (Jr., 6-2, 215, R/R); OF Sammy Walton (Sr., 5-10, 170, R/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP/INF Colby Gordon (Jr., 5-9, 160, R/R); RHP/3B Brandon Johnson (Jr., 5-11, 175, R/R); RHP/U Ty Gordon (Sr., 5-10, 180, R/R); RHP/3B Tripp Powell (Sr., 5-10, 180, R/R)

Top Newcomers: P/U Dawson Barnes (Jr., 6-1, 185); P/3B Brandin Johnson (Jr., 5-11, 175); P/INF Chase Wright (Jr., 5-9, 160); OF Dalton Chapman (Jr., 5-10, 175)

Season Outlook: If Jones County can find some pitching depth, the Greyhounds could be in the region title chase. The offense is in pretty good shape as outfielder Teldrick Ross (.337 avg., 35 RBIs), infielder Jackson Mix (.316 avg., 22 RBIs) and pitcher/first baseman Hunter Pierce (.322 avg., 29 RBIs) all return.



Teldrick Ross
Jones County

LOCUST GROVE WILDCATS

Head Coach: Stephen Phillips

Assistant Coach (s):

Josh Heath, Chad Crawford, John Welborn

2017 Record: 28-7

Returning Starters:

OF Austin Moody (Sr., 6-2, 195, R/R); OF Gavin Lee (Sr., 5-11, 190, R/R); RHP/3B Nolan Crisp (Jr., 5-9, 180, R/R); LHP/OF Luke Welborn (Jr., 5-11,



Gavin Lee
Locust Grove

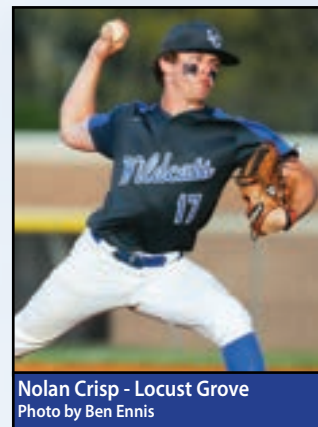


Austin Moody
Locust Grove

180, L/L); INF CI Upchurch (Jr., 5-6, 170, R/R); RHP/INF Kole Vickers (Sr., 5-11, 180, R/R); RHP Conner Presnell (Sr., 5-11, 165, R/R)

Top Newcomers: C JK Lee (Sr., 5-10, 185, R/R); RHP Steven Brown (Sr., 6-2, 180, R/R); RHP/OF Joe Raden (Jr., 6-0, 185, R/R)

Season Outlook: After two deep postseason runs the past two seasons, Locust Grove has some key positions to fill in 2018. But the cupboard isn't bare. Look for the Wildcats to be in the thick of the region chase. Junior pitchers Nolan Crisp and Luke Welborn return on the mound, while outfielders Austin Moody and Gavin Lee return to lead the offense.



Nolan Crisp - Locust Grove
Photo by Ben Ennis

OLA MUSTANGS

Head Coach: Beau Edwards

Assistant Coach (s):

Kyle McCreary, Bryan Dixon, Austin Smith, Jason Grammer, Chopper Clark

2017 Record: 21-14

Returning Starters:

OF Dalton Thomas (Jr., R/R); INF Chaz Salter (Jr., R/R); LHP/1B Patrick Holloman (So., L/L); OF Noah Norman (Sr., R/R); INF Matthew Mamates (Sr., R/R); RHP Jordan Armstrong (Sr., R/R)

Other Returning Players: LHP Evan Boyle (Jr., R/L); OF/2B Baylen Sanders (So., L/L); OF Jack Witmer (So., R/R) C Carson Bornett (Jr., R/R); C Korey Carroll (Jr., R/R); LHP Michael Thomason (Jr., L/L)

Top Newcomers: OF Jack Witmer (So., R/R); C/INF Cade Chamlee (So., R/R)

Season Outlook: A talented group of returning pitchers should help Ola contend for the region title this spring. The Mustangs will be led on the mound by a pair of Division I standouts in Jordan Armstrong and Evan Boyle. Sophomore lefty Patrick Holloman also returns after a promising freshman campaign. If the Mustangs can generate some offense, they could go a long way.



Jordan Armstrong
Ola



Evan Boyle
Ola

STOCKBRIDGE TIGERS

Head Coach: Daniel Greene

Assistant Coach (s): Brandon Cain, Karl Brooks

2017 Record: 7-16

Returning Starters: CF/LHP/1B Michael Harris (Jr., B/L); 2B/RHP KJ Brooks (So., L/R); 1B/RHP Justin Hunter (Sr., R/R); C/1B/3B Isaiah Weaver (Sr., R/R); SS/OF/RHP Ukari Roberts (Jr., R/R); SS/OF/RHP Gabe McKenzie (Sr., R/R)

Other Returning Players: 2B/RHP Darius Radford (Jr., R/R); OF Kenneth Peyton (Jr., R/R); OF Davonte Rose (Sr., R/R); OF/SS Elijah Drayton (So., R/R)

Season Outlook: The Tigers return an excellent nucleus of talent and should have a chance to improve upon last season's finish. Six starters are back, including junior outfielder/pitcher/first baseman

Michael Harris (.364 avg.). A trio of seniors – Justin Hunter, Isaiah Weaver and Gabe McKenzie – return to lead the way.

UNION GROVE WOLVERINES

Head Coach: Allen Franklin

Assistant Coach (s): Will Harrison, Zane Hoover, Michael Hook, Trent Lee

2017 Record: 20-14

Returning Starters: 3B Jalen Jones (Sr., 5-11, 170, R/R); 2B Kyle Ayers (Sr., 5-11, 160, R/R); C Jacob Beach (Sr., 6-0, 210, L/R); LHP Brody Couch (Sr., 5-11, 175, L/L); SS Ty Kaufman (So., 5-7, 145, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Coleman Hatmaker (Sr., R/R); OF Haydon Moss (Sr., L/L); RHP Adam Burnett (Sr., R/R); RHP Garrett Walker (Sr., R/R); C Dylan Czecholinski (Jr., R/R); OF Robbie Luman (Sr., L/L); RHP/OF Joey Pourron (So., R/R); 1B/LHP Peyton Sower (So., L/L)

Season Outlook: Look for Union Grove to be in the playoff mix as a solid corps of returners are back. Four senior starters return, including pitcher Brody Couch. Infielders Jalen Jones and Kyle Ayers as well as catcher Jacob Beach give the Wolverines a solid nucleus to build around.

WOODLAND-HENRY WOLFPACK

Head Coach: Quinton King

Assistant Coach (s): Peter Fraley

2017 Record: 5-19

Returning Starters: INF Khalil Hassan (Jr., 6-3, 185, R/R); INF Michael Bray (So., 5-6, 145, R/R); 1B Jamal Mayes (Jr., 5-8, 155, R/R); C Hunter Anderson (Sr., 6-1, 170, R/R)

Other Returning Players: 2B Osiris Corker (So., 5-6, 140, L/R); 3B/RHP Trevor Akin (So., 5-8, 155, R/R)

Season Outlook: Woodland welcomes back the return of four starters and should have a chance to improve upon last season's record. The senior class is small, but look for some solid underclassmen to step forward. Infielder Khalil Hassan is back to lead the offense.

REGION 5-5A

Region Favorite: Arabia Mountain

Players to Watch

RHP/INF – David Albuquerque, Sr., Chamblee

CF/RHP – Silas Butler, Sr., Arabia Mountain

OF/LHP – Tramaine Callaway, Sr., Columbia

OF/RHP – Josh Campbell, Sr., Arabia Mountain

RHP/SS/2B – Elijah Hammonds, Sr., Columbia

1B/LHP – Jeremy Hatchett, Sr., Southwest DeKalb

SS/RHP – Jalyn Hawkins, Sr., Arabia Mountain

OF – Justin Josey, Sr., Southwest DeKalb

3B/RHP – Corey King, Sr., Arabia Mountain

OF/RHP – Jordan Sterling, Sr., Arabia Mountain

ARABIA MOUNTAIN RAMS

Head Coach: Eric Hoxie

Assistant Coach (s):

Ronnie Kendricks

2017 Record: 21-11

Returning Starters: CF/

RHP Silas Butler (Sr., 6-0,

190, R/R); 3B/RHP Corey

King (Sr., 5-11, 180, R/R);

OF/LHP Jordan Sterling (Sr.,

6-1, 170, R/L); SS/RHP Jalyn

Hawkins (Sr., 5-8, 160, R/R);

2B/RHP Tyler Suber (Sr., 5-8,

175, R/R); RF/RHP Josh Campbell (Sr., 6-0, 200, R/R)

Other Returning Players: 2B/OF Conard

Heath (Sr., 5-7, 165, R/R); 3B/RHP Tyson Scott

(Jr., 6-0, 230, R/R); C/SS Terrance Phillips (Jr., 5-9,

145, R/R); 1B/RHP/3B Justin Hollis (Jr., 5-11, 175,

R/R); RHP/1B Nicholas Dezmal (Sr., 5-11, 180,

R/R); 2B/C Micah Sanders (Jr., 5-11, 150, R/R);

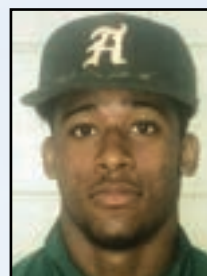
LHP/OF Justin Jordan (Jr., 5-8, 150, L/L)

Season Outlook: The defending region

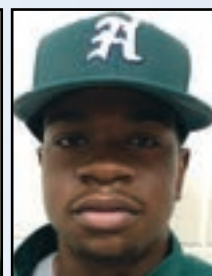
champions have a wealth of returning talent and

should be in the hunt once again. The senior class is strong. Offensive leaders

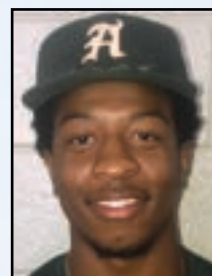
Silas Butler (.408 avg.) and Corey King (.516 avg.) return to lead the team.



Silas Butler
Arabia Mountain



Jalyn Hawkins
Arabia Mountain



Corey King
Arabia Mountain

CHAMBLEE BULLDOGS

Head Coach: Brian Ely

Assistant Coach (s): Mike Padgett, Jonathan Rosen, Alan Loper

2017 Record: 22-10

Returning Starters: RHP/INF David Albuquerque (Sr., 5-9, 140, L/R)

Other Returning Players: SS/RHP Matthew Welsh (Jr., 6-1, 175, R/R);

OF Travis Hammond (Jr., 5-11, 150, R/R); C Hunter Flowers (So., 5-9,

190, L/R); RHP/INF Daniel Sedacca (Jr., 5-10, 150, L/R); RHP/3B Max

Stephens (Jr., 5-10, 145, R/R)

Top Newcomers: LHP/1B Tony Fenner (Jr., 5-11, 145, L/L); INF Davis

Jenkins (Jr., 5-10, 180, R/R); RHP Michael Sarzen (So., 5-10, 140, R/R); RHP/1B

Marshall Peters (Sr., 6-2, 210, R/R); P/OF Lawrence Kimbrough (Jr., 5-10, 160)

Season Outlook: Chamblee lost a wealth of talent from last season's

squad and will be rebuilding this spring. But the Bulldogs have

a lot of young talent that needs to mature. Senior pitcher David

Albuquerque returns, giving the Bulldogs a leader to build around.

CLARKSTON ANGORAS

Head Coach: Nick Angelo

Survey not returned

COLUMBIA EAGLES

Head Coach: Brandon

Carter (new)

Assistant Coach

(s): Dedrick Murphy,

Greg Barnett, Marvin

Robinson, Tyrell Curtis

2017 Record: 25-7

Returning Starters:

RHP/SS/2B Elijah

Hammonds (Sr., 5-8, 180,

R/R); OF/LHP Tramaine



Tramaine Callaway
Columbia



Elijah Hammonds
Columbia

Callaway (Sr., 6-0, 180, L/L); U Giovanni Dyer (Jr., 5-9, 150, R/R); LHP/OF Justin Myles (So., 5-8, 140, L/L)

Other Returning Players: INF/RHP Yahaziah Brown (Sr., 5-10, 175, R/R); OF Greg Morris (Sr., 5-11, 165, R/R); OF/RHP Trevon White (Sr., 5-9, 155, R/R); OF/RHP/1B Zach Clark (Jr., 5-8, 150, R/R); INF/RHP Markel Lloyd (So., 5-7, 145, R/R)

Top Newcomers: 1B/3B D'Mitri Blow (So., 5-8, 210, R/R)

Season Outlook: Longtime assistant Brandon Carter takes over at Columbia and inherits four starters. One of those is versatile standout Elijah Hammonds (.480 avg., 11 2B; 2-0, 1.45 ERA). Outfielder/pitcher Tramaine Callaway (.391 avg., 31 RBIs) also returns. But some underclassmen will need to step forward.

CROSS KEYS INDIANS

Head Coach: Mark Adams

Survey not returned

LITHONIA BULLDOGS

Head Coach: Samuel Marion

Survey not returned

MILLER GROVE WOLVERINES

Head Coach: Terrence Canty

Survey not returned

SOUTHWEST DEKALB PANTHERS

Head Coach: Tyrus Taylor

Assistant Coach (s): Cedric Horton, Jerald Hatchett

2017 Record: 15-12

Returning Starters: OF Justin Josey (Sr., 5-9, 160, R/R); 1B/LHP Jeremy Hatchett (Sr., 5-9, 190, L/L); DH Juan Smith (Sr., 5-9, 155, R/R); C/INF/3B Theo Bryant (Jr., 6-0, 160, R/R); 2B/OF Eason Bing (Jr., 5-10, 150, R/R); 3B/SS/RHP Dante Alexander (So., 5-10, 175, R/R)

Other Returning Players: 3B Mark Peake (So., 5-9, 180, R/R); 1B Jaybrill Fareed (So., 6-2, 205, L/L)

Top Newcomers: INF/RHP/OF Chauncey Adams (Jr., 5-10, 160, R/R)

Season Outlook: Southwest DeKalb should contend for the region title this season as a good mixture of talent returns. A trio of seniors – outfielder Justin Josey, first baseman/pitcher Jeremy Hatchett and designated hitter Juan Smith – will be expected to lead the way. A solid group of underclassmen will also contribute.

REGION 6-5A

Region Favorite: Decatur

Players to Watch

3B/1B – Tim Conway, Sr., Decatur

SS – Jarrett Ford, Sr., Decatur

1B/LHP – Beau Foster, Sr., North Springs

C – Drew Hartman, Sr., Decatur

RHP/OF – Oliver Livingston, Sr., Decatur

SS – Ty Milliner, Sr., North Springs

RHP/OF – Josh Smith, Sr., North Springs

RHP/1B – Brett Thomas, Jr., Riverwood

BANNEKER TROJANS

Head Coach: Tony Bazzell

Survey not returned

CARVER-ATLANTA PANTHERS

Head Coach: TBA

Survey not returned

DECATUR BULLDOGS

Head Coach: Robby Gilbert

Assistant Coach

(s): Phillip Byrd, Bill Newsome

2017 Record: 26-11

Returning Starters: SS Jarrett Ford (Sr., 5-9, 175, R/R); 3B/1B Tim Conway (Sr., 6-2, 185, R/R); RHP/OF Oliver Livingston (Sr., 6-2, 180, R/R); C Drew Hartman (Sr., 6-0, 160, R/R)



Tim Conway
Decatur



Oliver Livingston
Decatur

Other Returning Players: LHP Stephen Hanes (Sr., L/L); 2B Myles Johnson (Sr., R/R); C Jack Maloof (Sr., R/R); INF Jonathan Paden (Sr., R/R); OF Spencer Patterson (Sr., R/R); 1B Cam Perry (Sr., R/R); RHP/3B Lee Soorikian (Sr., R/R); OF Jake Vaughan (Sr., R/R); RHP/OF/1B Hayden Fliinn (Jr., R/R); RHP/OF Tucker Jones (Jr., R/R); C/3B/1B John Griffin Standford (Jr., R/R); C Luke Clark (So., R/R); RHP/1B Jackson Hills (So., R/R); INF Jaylen Paden (So., R/R); 3B/RHP/1B Jordan Walker (So., R/R)

Top Newcomers: OF Ben Smith (So., R/R)

Season Outlook: A strong senior class will lead the way for Decatur who should challenge for the region title this spring. Leading hitters Jarrett Ford (.424 avg., 37 RBIs) and Tim Conway (.420 avg., 35 RBIs) return to lead the offense, while pitcher Oliver Livingston (6-0, 1.38 ERA) leads a solid pitching rotation.

GRADY KNIGHTS

Head Coach: Darryl Farley

Survey not returned

JACKSON-ATLANTA JAGUARS

Head Coach: Antonio Coger

Survey not returned

LITHIA SPRINGS LIONS

Head Coach: Chris Sheperd (new)

Survey not returned

NORTH SPRINGS SPARTANS

Head Coach: Matt Gershon (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Clay Ardeeser, Jim Satalin, Turner Watkins, Blake Edwards

2017 Record: 25-8

Returning Starters: 1B/LHP Beau Foster (Sr., 5-11, 190, L/L); C Brendan Liu (Sr., 6-0, 200, R/R); RHP/OF Evan Murphy (Sr., 6-3, 170, R/R); SS Ty Milliner (Sr., 5-10, 175, B/R); LHP Benny Moses (Sr., 5-11, 175, L/L); RHP/OF Josh Smith (Sr., 6-4, 160, R/R); 3B Jeff Taylor (Sr., 6-0, 175, R/R)

Other Returning Players: 3B Spencer Cannon (Sr., 6-1, 185, R/R); OF/

LHP A.J. Jones (Sr., 5-10, 160, L/L)

Top Newcomers: OF Ryan Deutsch (Sr., 5-8, 175, R/R); U Kolby Livsey (Jr., 5-8, 140, R/R)

Season Outlook: Matt Gershon returns to Dekalb County and takes over a North Springs program that won 25 games last season. Look for the Spartans to continue building on that success. Seven starters, all of them seniors, return. Shortstop Ty Milliner (.434 avg., 20 RBIs) is back to lead the offense.

RIVERWOOD RAIDERS

Head Coach: Trey Henson (new)

Survey not returned

REGION 7-5A

Region Favorite: Carrollton

Players to Watch

OF/INF – Noah Best, Jr., Villa Rica

INF – Sam Blancato, Jr., Kell

OF – Colin Bodnar, Sr., Paulding County

RHP/INF – Chandler Bridges, Sr., Rome

1B – Jacob Cook, Sr., East Paulding

RHP – Rhett Daniel, Sr., Carrollton

SS – Kade Garrard, Sr., Rome

RHP/INF – Braden Hyde, Sr., Rome

LHP – Kenny Jinks, Sr., Woodland-Bartow

P/OF – Knox Kadum, Jr., Rome

OF – Jaiden Moore, Sr., Kell

LHP/OF – Jackson Phipps, So., East Paulding

LHP/1B – Logan Smallwood, Sr., Villa Rica

OF – Andy Smith, Sr., Carrollton

C – Nathan Smith, Sr., Cass

RHP – Jared Soliz, Sr., Carrollton

RHP/INF – Steven Spell, Sr., Cass

3B/RHP – Koby Stansel, Jr., Woodland-Bartow

LHP – Jacob Turner, So., Villa Rica

OF – Destine Udombon, Sr., Carrollton

3B/U – Parker Whitaker, Sr., Paulding County

CARROLLTON TROJANS

Head Coach: Ryan Zaideman

Assistant Coach (s):

Jamie Sexton

2017 Record: 29-7

Returning Starters:

RHP Rhett Daniel (Sr., 6-4, 190, R/R); RHP Jared Soliz (Sr., 6-1, 175, R/R); OF Andy Smith (Sr., 5-9, 170, L/L); OF Destine Udombon (Sr., 5-9, 170,



Rhett Daniel
Carrollton



Andy Smith
Carrollton

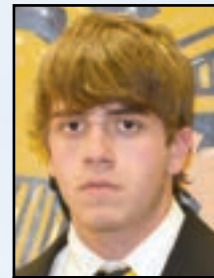
R/L); SS Brandon Prince (Jr., 6-1, 180, R/R); OF Asa Awbrey (Jr., 6-0, 170, L/L); C Jared Aldridge (Jr., 5-10, 175, R/R)

Other Returning

Players: C Luke Shilling (Sr., 5-9, 170, R/R); RHP Colin Broz (Sr., 6-2, 175, R/R); LHP Brock Britton (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/L); U Ryan Anderson (Jr., 6-1, 185, R/R); 3B/RHP Ty Murray (Jr., 6-3, 295, L/R); OF Charlie Lanier (Jr., 5-11, 170, L/R); RHP Zeke McDonald (Jr., 6-2, 175, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP Will Carney (Sr., 6-3, 215, R/R); 1B/RHP Chris Gaiter (Jr., 6-3, 195, R/R)

Season Outlook: A wealth of talent returns for the Trojans who should have their best team since winning a state title in 2014. Pitching will lead the way as right-handers Rhett Daniel (8-2, 1.90 ERA) and Jared Soliz (10-3, 2.04 ERA) return. Outfielders Destine Udombon (.391 avg.) and Andy Smith (.321 avg.) return to lead the offense.



Jared Soliz
Carrollton



Destine Udombon
Carrollton

CASS COLONELS

Head Coach: Tim Ayers (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Matt Thompson

2017 Record: 15-15

Returning Starters: C Nathan Smith (Sr., 5-11, 190, R/R); RHP/INF Steven Spell (Sr., 6-2, 190, R/R); LHP/OF Evan Hinton (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/L); RHP/OF Gavin Young (Sr., 5-10, 170, L/R); RHP/INF Clay Means (Jr., 5-10, 170, R/R); RHP/OF Bryson Markley (Jr., 5-11, 160, R/R)

Other Returning Players: C/INF Logan Nelson (So., 5-11, 170, L/R); RHP/INF Blaine Ingram (So., 5-11, 175, R/R)

Top Newcomers: INF Matt Shook (Fr., 5-9, 160, B/R); C Sam Milton (Fr., 5-10, 165, R/R); OF Kyle Miller (Fr., 5-9, 160, R/R); OF/INF Thomas Betts (Fr., 6-1, 170, R/R); RHP/INF Trey Scott (Fr., 6-2, 170, R/R)

Season Outlook: Former assistant Tim Ayers takes over and will look to keep the Colonels in postseason contention. Cass welcomes back six starters, including catcher Nathan Smith and pitcher/infielder Steven Spell. Pitchers Evan Hinton and Gavin Young also return.

EAST PAULDING RAIDERS

Head Coach: Tony Boyd

Assistant Coach (s): Jordan Edwards, Andrew Deaton, Zack Kilday, Austin Driskell, Joe Tenoschok

2017 Record: 18-15

Returning Starters: 1B Jacob Cook (Sr., 6-0, 200, R/R); OF Tyrell Robinson (Jr., 5-7, 155, R/R); LHP Kasey Kelly (Sr., 5-11, 150, L/L); OF Grant Arnold (Sr., 5-10, 150, R/R); LHP/OF Jackson Phipps (So., 6-4, 195, L/L)

Other Returning Players: C Eli Studdard (So., 5-8, 140, R/R); C/INF Andrew Pendleton (So., 5-7, 130, L/R); C/RHP Payton Miranda (Jr., 5-9, 200, R/R)

Top Newcomers: OF/LHP Brandon Haston (Jr., 5-11, 165, L/L); 3B Trace Nicholson (So., 5-7, 140, R/R); SS/RHP Clark Poss (So., 5-7, 125, R/R); RHP/OF Ben Sosebee (So., 5-10, 145, R/R)

Season Outlook: East Paulding will be in a rebuilding mode this spring. However, don't sleep on the Raiders. Five starters are back, including senior first baseman Jacob Cook. Also, keep an eye on left-handed pitcher/outfielder Jackson Phipps, who was promising last year as a freshman.

HIRAM HORNETS

Head Coach: Tim Burgess (new)

Survey not returned

KELL LONGHORNS

Head Coach: Todd Harris

Assistant Coach (s): Rick Mang, Josh Burrus

2017 Record: 22-11

Returning Starters: INF Sam Blancato (Jr., 5-9, 170, B/R); C Ben Olson (Jr., 6-0, 175, R/R); INF Noah Dawkins (Jr., 6-0, 185, R/R); INF Luke Hughes (Jr., 5-11, 180, R/R); LHP Hal Stelljes (Jr., 6-1, 175, R/L); OF Jaiden Moore (Sr., 5-8, 160, R/R)

Other Returning Players: LHP Tre Pennie (Sr., 5-10, 165, R/L); RHP Colby Arthur (Jr., 5-9, 155, R/R); RHP Caleb Hilton (Sr., 6-2, 180, R/R); LHP Joseph Galloway (Sr., 5-10, 165, L/L); INF Tommy Easley (Sr., 5-9, 175, R/R)

Top Newcomers: INF/RHP Rylie O'Brien (Jr., 6-1, 210, R/R); OF/C Logan Smith (Jr., 5-10, 175, R/R); INF/RHP Jay Inglis (Jr., 6-0, 180, R/R); RHP Jack Gilmartin (Jr., 6-0, 170, R/R)

Season Outlook: The Longhorns return a good mixture of talent and should be in the postseason hunt this spring. Six starters, most of them juniors, will lead the way. If the pitching rotation matures, Kell could make a strong push for the region title.

PAULDING COUNTY PATRIOTS

Head Coach: John Sirmon

Assistant Coach (s): Chris Widing, Brad Wood, Greg Harper, David Devey

2017 Record: 8-20

Returning Starters: C Jacob Harper (So., 6-0, 150, R/R); 2B/SS Chandler Postelwait (Jr., 5-9, 150, R/R); 3B/U Parker Whitaker (Sr., 5-8, 150, R/R); RHP Mylan Wigley (Jr., 6-3, 160, R/R); OF Collin Bodnar (Sr., 6-3, 175, R/R); OF/LHP Dakota Reeves (Jr., 6-0, 150, L/L)

Season Outlook: Paulding County will still be a relatively young team, but the Patriots should be improved this spring. Six starters are back, including seniors Parker Whitaker and Collin Bodnar. Paulding will be looking for some underclassmen to step forward.

ROME WOLVES

Head Coach: Jim Tejcek (new)

Assistant Coach (s): TBA

2017 Record: 13-17

Other Returning

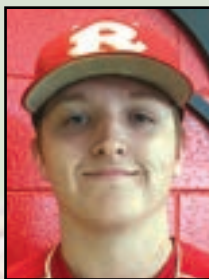
Players: RHP/INF Chandler Bridges (Sr.); INF Kade Garrard (Sr.); INF/RHP Braden Hyde (Sr.); P/OF Knox Kadum (Jr.); C Connor Bullard (Jr.); OF Xavier Roberts (Jr.); INF Sevie Andrews (Jr.); 2B/SS Alden Astin (Jr.); OF Garrett Howell (Jr.)

Other Returning

Players: INF Tristian Tillery (Jr.)

Top Newcomers: C Andrew Harrell (Fr.); U Brayer Cowen (Fr.)

Season Outlook: New coach Jim Tejcek



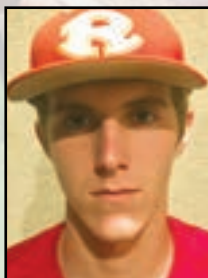
Chandler Bridges
Rome



Kade Garrard
Rome



Braden Hyde
Rome



Knox Kadum
Rome

takes over at Rome and seeks to help the Wolves get back in the postseason chase. A wealth of talent returns, including seniors Chandler Bridges, Braden Hyde and Kade Garrard. A solid group of juniors will also help out.

VILLA RICA WILDCATS

Head Coach: Neal Hannah

Assistant Coach (s): Mike Best, John Kegley, Jim Jones

2017 Record: 17-12

Returning Starters: LHP/1B Logan Smallwood (Sr., 6-5, 220, L/L); OF/INF Noah Best (Jr., 6-0, 185, R/R); INF Alex Ferro (Jr., 5-10, 215, R/R); OF Bryson Smith (Sr., 6-4, 180, R/R); LHP Jacob Turner (So., 5-10, 175, L/L); 1B Parker Wells (Sr., 6-1, 215, R/R)

Other Returning Players: C/RHP Jesse Martinez (Sr., 6-0, 170, R/R); INF Tanner Marshall (Sr., 5-10, 165, R/R); LHP Gavin Rainwater (Sr., 5-8, 160, R/L); OF Brady Vaughn (Sr., 5-8, 155, L/L); OF Johnny Bravy (So., 5-8, 150, L/L); INF Christian Swanner (Sr., 6-3, 210, R/R)

Top Newcomers: C D'Angelo Cruz (Fr., 5-10, 160, R/R)

Season Outlook: The Wildcats won 17 games in coach Neal Hannah's first season in 2017. Villa Rica should be in the postseason chase again this season. Six starters are back, including pitchers Logan Smallwood, Jacob Turner and outfielder/infielder Noah Best. A sizeable senior class gives Villa Rica a solid nucleus to build around.

WOODLAND-BARTOW WILDCATS

Head Coach: Colby Coursey

Assistant Coach (s): Matt Montgomery, Michael Adcock, Jackson Grant

2017 Record: 18-10

Returning Starters: SS Jordan Lee (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/R); OF Garrett Cornett (Sr., 5-8, 150, R/R); LHP Kenny Jinks (Sr., 6-2, 160, L/L); RHP/INF Zach Woods (Sr., 6-1, 175, R/R); OF Dylan Webb (Sr., 5-9, 160, R/R); 3B/RHP Koby Stansel (Jr., 5-9, 175, R/R); OF Toby Queen (Jr., 6-2, 175, R/R)

Other Returning Players: C/RHP Bailey Ward (Jr., 6-0, 170, R/R); RHP/INF Bryce Evans (Sr., 5-10, 185, R/R); RHP/INF Tyler Dilcher (Sr., 5-9, 185, B/R); OF Titus Jones (Jr., 5-9, 175, R/R); C/INF Chris Mills (Sr., 5-9, 180, R/R)

Season Outlook: Look for the Wildcats to compete for the postseason as seven starters are back. An excellent group of seniors and juniors return to lead the team. Pitcher Kenny Jinks (4-2, 2.62 ERA) returns to lead a solid pitching rotation. Meanwhile, third baseman/pitcher Koby Stansel is back after a promising sophomore campaign last spring.



REGION 8-5A

Region Favorite: Loganville

Players to Watch

RHP/1B – Andrew Armstrong, So., Flowery Branch
2B – Clay Baker, Sr., Walnut Grove
OF – Jacob Boyd, Jr., Loganville
RHP – Joseph Brandon, Sr., Loganville
LHP – Seth Clark, Sr., Loganville
RHP – Ramsey David, Jr., Buford
C – Ben Davis, Sr., Walnut Grove
RHP/1B – Preston Felt, Sr., Flowery Branch
RHP – Garrett Glover, Sr., Buford
OF – Tanner Green, Sr., Loganville
SS/2B – Anthony Grutadaurio, Sr., Flowery Branch
INF/C – Hunter Hale, Sr., Walnut Grove
OF/RHP – Ben Head, Sr., Johnson-Gainesville
2B – Grant James, Sr., Buford
3B – Gabe Knight, Sr., Loganville
1B/C – Noah Ledford, Sr., Buford
C – Blaine Marchman, Jr., Loganville
RHP – Bryant Pietri, Sr., Loganville
OF – Garrison Price, Sr., Buford
2B – Griffin Price, Sr., Buford
LHP – JC Sewell, Sr., Flowery Branch
3B/OF – Tim Smith, Sr., Johnson-Gainesville
SS – Dylan Strickland, So., Loganville
CF – Austin Turner, Jr., Buford
RHP – Zack Wagner, Jr., Flowery Branch
RHP – Bay Witcher, Sr., Loganville

BUFORD WOLVES

Coach: Stuart Chester (new)

Assistant Coach (s):

Casey Laws, Trent Adams, Bryan Rogers, Ronnie Samples, Jake Burnett, Josh Higginbotham, Tyler White

2017 Record: 20-15

Returning Starters:

C/1B/DH Noah Ledford (Sr., 6-1, 225, B/R); 2B Griffin Price (Sr., 5-9, 175, R/R); RF Garrison Price (Sr., 5-9, 175, R/R); SS Grant James (Sr., 6-3, 180, R/R); CF Austin Turner (Jr., 5-10, 170, L/R); RHP Ramsey David (Jr., 6-4, 180, R/R); 1B/DH Reese McIntyre (Jr., 6-6, 295, R/R); LHP Sean Adams (Jr., 6-1, 180,



Ramsey David
Buford



Garrison Price
Buford



Griffin Price
Buford



Austin Turner
Buford

R/L); RHP Garrett Glover (Sr., 6-2, 180, R/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP Cole Hunter (Sr., 6-1, 225, R/R); C Patrick Walker (Jr., 5-10, 170, R/R); RHP Griffin Bonner (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/R); RHP Will Westmoreland (Sr., 6-1, 195, R/R); 3B Preston Hagan (Sr., 6-1, 185, R/R); INF/RHP Brandon Jolliff (Jr., 6-1, 205, R/R); OF K.J. Johnson (Jr., 6-2, 195, R/R); INF Kaleb Elder (Jr., 6-0, 180, R/R); INF Evan Place (Jr., 6-0, 210, R/R)

Top Newcomers:

LHP Grant Thomoff (Sr., 5-10, 170, L/L); RHP Calvin Couch (Jr., 5-10, 175, R/R); RHP Chase Rhodes (Jr., 6-4, 220, R/R)

Season Outlook: Longtime Cartersville coach Stuart Chester takes over at Buford and inherits a wealth of talent. If the Wolves can find some more pitching arms to compliment Ramsey David and Garrett Glover, they could contend for the region title. Offensive catalysts Noah Ledford (.410 avg., 9 2B), Garrison Price (.402 avg., 13 2B), Griffin Price (.340 avg., 5 3B) and Grant James (.349 avg.) return.



Noah Ledford - Buford
Photo by David McGregor

CEDAR SHOALS JAGUARS

Coach: TBA

Survey not returned

CLARKE CENTRAL GLADIATORS

Coach: Adam Osborne (new)

Survey not returned

FLOWERY BRANCH FALCONS

Coach: Joey Ray (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Dusty Black, Sean Pittman, Austin Brown, Gary Matthews, Ken Ray, Robbie Boudreau

2017 Record: 18-13

Returning Starters: SS/2B Anthony Grutadaurio (Sr., 5-10, 190, R/R); RHP/1B Preston Felt (Sr., 6-0, 185, R/R); 3B/RHP/C AJ Gonzalez (Sr., 5-10, 190, L/R); LHP JC Sewell (Sr., 6-2, 190, R/L); RHP Zack Wagner (Jr., 5-10, 175, R/R); RHP/1B Andrew Armstrong (So., 6-2, 130, R/R); OF/LHP Grant Lackey (So., 5-10, 155, L/L); LHP/1B Zander Sechrist (So., 6-1, 150, R/L)

Other Returning Players: C Fletcher Crockett (Sr., 6-0, 150, L/R); OF/RHP Andrew Curtin (Sr., 5-11, 180, R/R); OF Trace Merck (Sr., 5-8, 155, R/R); 1B/RHP Peyton Vinson (Sr., 6-2, 180, L/R); C/1B TJ Armstrong (Jr., 6-1, 220, R/R)

Top Newcomers: OF Blake Coxworth (Sr., 6-2, 170, R/R); RHP Luke Houston (Jr., 6-3, 190, R/R)

Season Outlook: Former Milton coach Joey Ray takes over a Flowery Branch program that made the state playoffs last year. Ray inherits a talented group of pitchers in Preston Felt (5-4, 3.77 ERA), JC Sewell (3-2, 4.75 ERA), Zack Wagner (5-0, 2.93 ERA), Andrew Armstrong (1-2, 1.73 ERA) and Zander Sechrist (3-3, 2.00 ERA). Infielder Anthony Grutadaurio (.422 avg., 10 2B) returns to lead the offense.



Anthony Grutadaurio
Flowery Branch

JOHNSON-GAINESVILLE KNIGHTS

Coach: Jared Hodge

Assistant Coach (s): Daniel Johnson, Gary Hughes

2017 Record: 5-22

Returning Starters: 3B/OF Tim Smith (Sr., R/R); OF/RHP Ben Head (Sr., R/R); 1B Dean Eidson (Sr., R/R); 2B Caleb Hatcher (Jr., R/R); C Freddy Denard (Jr., R/R); C/RHP James Lancaster (So., R/R); SS/3B Tino Mukono (So., R/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP/INF Avery Goss (Jr., R/R); RHP/OF Ashton Balizet (So., R/R)

Season Outlook: The Knights look to improve on last season's finish as seven starters are back. A trio of seniors will lead the way - third baseman/outfielder Tim Smith, outfielder/pitcher Ben Head and first baseman Dean Eidson. A solid group of juniors will contribute.

LOGANVILLE RED DEVILS

Coach: Jeff Segars

Assistant Coach (s):

Mike Ryan, Bran Mills, Brandon Anglin

2017 Record: 30-13

Returning Starters:

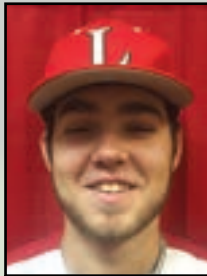
RHP Bay Witcher (Sr., 6-4, 220, R/R); RHP Joseph Brandon (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/R); LHP Seth Clark (Sr., 6-3, 195, R/L); RHP Bryant Pietri (Sr., 6-3, 210, R/R); 3B Gabe Knight (Sr., 6-2, 190, R/R); OF Jacob Boyd (Jr., 5-10, 165, R/R); C Blaine Marchman (Jr., 6-0, 185, R/R); SS Dylan Strickland (So., 6-0, 170, R/R); 1B Justin Moss (Sr., 6-2, 220, R/R)



Joseph Brandon
Loganville



Tanner Green
Loganville



Gabe Knight
Loganville



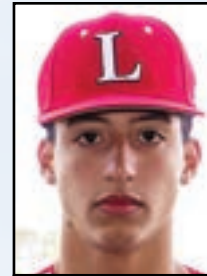
Blaine Marchman
Loganville

Other Returning

Players: C Jake Daniel (Sr., 6-0, 185, R/R); OF/RHP Blake Stowe (Jr., 5-11, 165, R/R); C Ian King (So., 5-9, 160, R/R); RHP Gavin Swords (Sr., 5-11, 170, R/R); RHP/SS Michael Knight (Jr., 6-1, 180, R/R)

Top Newcomers: OF Tanner Green (Sr., 6-3, 220, L/L)

Season Outlook: The bulk of Loganville's state championship squad returns, including a lethal pitching staff consisting of Bay Witcher (9-3, 1.52 ERA), Joseph Brandon (7-4, 0.85 ERA), Seth Clark (3-2, 1.41 ERA) and Bryant Pietri (6-0, 0.23 ERA). The Red Devils also return offensive leaders Gabe Knight and shortstop Dylan Strickland.



Bryant Pietri
Loganville



Dylan Strickland
Loganville

WALNUT GROVE WARRIORS

Head Coach: Danny Daigle

Assistant Coach (s): Carl Allen, Stephen Bentley, Kyle Hardy, Randy Reed, Brandon Gaubert, Caleb Reaves, John Cartledge, Justin Herring

2017 Record: 17-14

Returning Starters: INF/C Hunter Hale (Sr., 5-9, 155, R/R); C Ben Davis (Sr., 5-7, 140, R/R); 2B Clay Baker (Sr., 5-8, 150, R/R); 3B Jake Love (Jr., 6-1, 205, R/R); LHP/1B Eli McMullen (Jr., 6-2, 150, L/L); RHP/OF Nathan Boyce (Jr., 6-3, 160, R/R); OF/RHP Chandler Head (Jr., 5-10, 170, R/R); RHP Blake Maddox (Sr., 5-8, 160, R/R); INF Blake McCoy (Sr., 5-9, 170, R/R); INF Brayden Brooks (So., 5-8, 165, R/R); 1B/RHP Josh Galloway (Sr., 6-1, 205, R/R)

Other Returning Players: C Reed Tarleton (Jr., 5-10, 185, R/R); 1B/DH Brice Peeler (Sr., 5-11, 170, R/R); OF Joc Pledger (Jr., 5-10, 175, R/R)

Top Newcomers: OF Jake McDaniel (So., 5-8, 155, R/R)

Season Outlook: Walnut Grove will be expected to challenge for a playoff berth this spring. A wealth of starters return, including senior standouts Hunter Hale, Ben Davis and Clay Baker. The Warriors must find consistency on the mound. Look for a solid corps of underclassmen to also contribute.

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Getting hot at right time

Marist claims Class 4A crown

By Tim Morse

Marist baseball coach Mike Strickland dug down and gave his team one of the biggest speeches of the year. Strickland knew if his Eagles were going to make any kind of postseason run, he had to do something.

"I guarantee you at the end of the regular season and we were sitting there at 15-15, not many folks thought this was the club that was capable," he said. "But we all got together and we sat down and we looked at who we had played and what our schedule said about us. I told those guys that we could do it.

"And they believed. They knew it. We just had to play well, and we played really good for about a month."

Playing good was an understatement.

Marist swept Cedartown and Cairo, then defeated Madison County in three games before sweeping LaGrange to advance to the Georgia High School Association Class 4A state championship series.

After getting run-ruled in Game 1 against preseason favorite Blessed Trinity at Rome's State Mutual Stadium, the War Eagles rallied to win the next two to capture the school's 13th state championship, the most titles by any school in GHSA history.

The War Eagles (25-17) didn't do anything special when they entered postseason play as the No. 2 seed from Region 7. They used gutsy pitching performances and solid defense, while their offense played small-ball. Marist had the talent, but its chemistry and cohesiveness is what put them on top.

"We wanted to have every possible second with one another," Strickland said. "We wanted our time, and we valued every second that we were together. Thriving on that idea that this time is valuable, it's our time, let's make the most of it ... that's what really drove this group."

Marist had played a brutal regular-season schedule that consisted of Class 7A powers Parkview, Mill Creek, Lambert and Milton, as well as eventual Class 5A champion Loganville and Class 3A champion North Hall. Also sandwiched into the schedule was a contest with perennial state power Cartersville. The War Eagles also played Lee County and Starr's Mill who both made deep postseason runs.

Strickland knew his team was better than its record indicated.

"We always knew we were a great ball club," said senior Joseph Mannelly, who delivered an RBI double for the go-ahead run in the sixth inning of Game 3 of the state championship series.

"I mean it was about time that we came in and did something like that. We had been waiting on it all season and we finally put it together."

Dethroning Region 7 champion Blessed Trinity in the championship series wasn't easy. The Titans defeated Marist by a combined 20-6 in a three-game sweep in the regular season. Then after Peyton Glavine shut down the War Eagles in Game 1 and the Titans run-ruled Marist 11-1, the tables turned.

Marist rallied to take Game 2, 7-2, then got a six-inning pitching gem from sophomore right-hander Seb Thomas in the third and deciding game to shut down Blessed Trinity's offense. Patrick Taylor retired the Titans in order in the seventh to preserve the victory as Marist made the most of just five hits in a 4-3 victory.

"That was awesome," Thomas said. "That was the best moment of my young career."

Marist's title was the third in Strickland's tenure at Marist. But there was something about the 2017 squad that keeps making Strickland smile.

"(All the titles) are all sweet," he said. "But that was some kind of group. They loved each other. It was always about picking each other up in those moments that were tough. They showed how much they cared about each other in the way they picked each other up."



Marist players hug coach Mike Strickland after beating Blessed Trinity to win Class 4A state title.
Photo by Tim Morse



Marist players celebrate on the field at State Mutual Stadium after defeating Blessed Trinity to win the Class 4A state title.
Photo by Tim Morse



Marist infielder Cassius Young (sliding) scores a run in Game 2 of the state championship series against Blessed Trinity.
Photo by Tim Morse



Marist team members are, Cassius Young, Patrick Duffy, Patrick Taylor, Will Goldberg, William Moyers, Ryan Sullivan, Carter Tally, Connor Stephens, Jack O'Keefe, Charlie Benson, Chris Cathcart, Chase Abshier, Bill Rubright, Jack Galanek, Jamie Taylor, James MacCallum, Derius Hulbert, David Sever, Joseph Mannelly, Joseph McDermond, Seb Thomas, Matthew Pezolt, Gus Phelts and Dean Colton. Head Coach Mike Strickland. Assistant Coaches are Charlie Leibrandt and Cory Tibbs
Photo by Tim Morse

Class 4A Top 15



HERITAGE-CATOOSA

This is the season the Generals have been looking forward to. Heritage welcomes back 12 seniors and a wealth of others who have played key roles in the program. And if the 10-year old school wants to win a state championship in baseball, the time is now.

Heritage made the Class 4A state semifinals last season, its best season in history, before getting swept by power Blessed Trinity. The Generals return one of the nation's top pitchers in Cole Wilcox and a wealth of returners who will help Wilcox carry the load.

Infielder Jonathan Hickman, Lance Dockery and utility player Luke Grant lead Heritage on offense. It remains to be seen if the Generals can put everything together at one time, but Heritage certainly has all the pieces and will be fun to watch.



BLESSED TRINITY

After a four-year run which included two state titles and two state runner-up finishes, the Titans may be in for a little rebuilding this spring. The plate, however, isn't bare. The Titans will still be dangerous. If the team's pitching rotation matures, Blessed Trinity will have a say in the Class 4A state championship chase.



TROUP

The Tigers return one of the state's top pitchers in Colby Williams and one of the nation's top position prospects in Ryan Bliss. Troup won Region 5-4A last season in what was supposed to be a rebuilding season. Not much should slow the Tigers down this season. Look for Troup to be very good.



CARTERSVILLE

In what was an uncharacteristic season by Cartersville standards, the Hurricanes lost in the first round of the state playoffs. They would like to forget about 2017. Pitching will be solid and lead the way this spring as ambidexterous Anthony Seigler and Mason Barnett will keep the Hurricanes in the hunt. Cartersville also returns prospect Devin Warner.



WOODWARD ACADEMY

The War Eagles return a load of talent and seek to build off last year's 25-win season. The Region 4-4A champions eased past the first round, then lost a weird second-round series against Heritage-Catoosa in three games. Woodward has the pitching and the hitting to get back to the playoffs and make a strong run.



MARIST

The defending state champions won the Class 4A title with a blue-collar team that had the perfect chemistry. The War Eagles have many of the same gritty players returning that helped make last year's state championship run possible. Marist boasts one of the classification's top young pitchers in Seb Thomas, they just need a few more to go around him.



LAGRANGE

The Grangers finished their brutal Region 5-4A schedule, then they made a run to the state semifinals before falling to eventual state champion Marist. LaGrange has some key positions to fill, but a strong senior class will keep them in the chase. The Grangers' biggest key will be surviving their rugged region schedule again.



STEPHENS COUNTY

Last year, Stephens County struggled to get into the playoffs as the No. 4 seed from Region 8-4A. Then the Indians got hot and made a run to the state quarterfinals. Stephens looks to build off that momentum. Most of the team is back, especially a talented pitching rotation that should help them contend for the region title.



COLUMBUS

This could be the Blue Devils' best team under coach Chad Mathis. Columbus has the pitching to be a factor with the return of Jonathan Brand and Trent Grantham. And the offense shouldn't be bad either with senior Trent Swinehart and Robbie Tillman returning. Keep an eye on this team.



WEST LAURENS

The Raiders made it to the state quarterfinals last year before getting swept by powerful Blessed Trinity. This should be West Laurens' best team in at least a decade. All-state pitcher Nolan Daniel and seven starters return. There is enough talent for the Raiders to make a deep postseason run.



MADISON COUNTY

The Raiders played a lot of players last season which should pay off this season. Madison County doesn't have the individual standouts that it had last season, but the team could be better. A heavy dose of senior leadership will help the Raiders once again compete for the region title in 8-4A.



NORTHWEST WHITFIELD

The Bruins won the Region 6-4A title last season and won 21 games before falling to Stephens County in three games in the first round of the playoffs. Northwest Whitfield looks to take things a step farther. They have the talent and the pitching, especially with the return of promising pitcher Hank Bearden.



WEST HALL

The Spartans turned the corner last year and made the state playoffs as the Region 7-4A No. 3 seed. They also forced a decisive third game against powerful Troup before falling in the first round. West Hall will build off that momentum with a solid group of seniors returning, including pitcher Jeff Jenkins who has proven tough to beat.



NORTH OCONEE

If you have a player like Kumar Rocker, one of the nation's top pitching prospects and most likely a first round draft pick in the Major League Baseball Draft this June, your team deserves to be ranked. The Titans will need Rocker and a solid corps of returning players to make the postseason. The talent is there.



HARDAWAY

The Hawks peaked at the right time last year after barely making the playoffs, then they caught fire and made a run to the state quarterfinals. They will miss standout Mykel Page, but the Hawks have enough talent to be in the hunt again as versatile Jonathan Manibusan and Hunter Duke team up on the mound.

Others to watch: (Alphabetical Order) Burke County, Cedartown, Cross Creek, Jefferson, Northside-Columbus, Oconee County, Pickens, Spalding

CLASS 4A PRESEASON ALL STATE

First Team

Name	Position	Grade	School	Comment
Hank Bearden	Pitcher	Sophomore	Northwest Whitfield	Gets better with age
Nolan Daniel	Pitcher	Senior	West Laurens	Quietly gets the job done
Jeff Jenkins	Pitcher	Senior	West Hall	Underrated pitcher is real deal
Kumar Rocker	Pitcher	Senior	North Oconee	Tough pitcher to beat
Seb Thomas	Pitcher	Junior	Marist	You'll hear more about him
Cole Wilcox	Pitcher	Senior	Heritage-Catoosa	One of the nation's best, period
Colby Williams	Pitcher	Junior	Troup	RHP can make you look bad
Ethan Cornelius	Catcher	Senior	Woodward Academy	Has strong glove and bat
Anthony Seigler	Catcher	Senior	Cartersville	Strong behind plate and on mound
CJ Abrams	Infielder	Junior	Blessed Trinity	There's not much he can't do
Ryan Bliss	Infielder	Senior	Troup	Smooth infielder makes the plays
Jonathan Hickman	Infielder	Senior	Heritage-Catoosa	Leader on very good team
Jake Smith	Infielder	Junior	Blessed Trinity	Can hit, pitch and play defense
Dawson Sorrells	Infielder	Junior	Stephens County	Also a standout pitcher
Devin Warner	Infielder	Senior	Cartersville	Always provides a spark
Ryan Davis	Outfielder	Junior	Blessed Trinity	He can hit with the best of them
Lance Dockery	Outfielder	Senior	Heritage-Catoosa	Gets the offense started
Cole Freeman	Outfielder	Senior	LaGrange	Will only get better
David Hollie	Outfielder	Senior	Cross Creek	Good at everything he does
Jonathan Manibusan	Outfielder	Senior	Hardaway	Plays many different positions
Jack Haney	Designated Hitter	Senior	Cedartown	Kind of player you want to have
Bill Knight	Utility	Senior	Burke County	Good all-around player

Second Team

Pitchers – Mason Barnett, Jr., Cartersville; Jonathan Brand, Sr., Columbus; Lance Cummings, Sr., Oconee County; Jake Gooch, Sr., Cartersville; Trent Grantham, Sr., Columbus; Jordan Sayles, Sr., Woodward Academy; Davis Swenson, Jr., Stephens County;
Catchers – Cooper Doughman, Jr., Troup; Ben Schorr, So., Columbus; **Infielders** – Charlie Benson, Sr., Marist; Waggener Davidson, Sr., Northside-Columbus; Hunter Duke, Jr., Hardaway; Mickey Skole, Sr., Blessed Trinity; Joe Sutton, Sr., Chestatee; Patrick Taylor, Sr., Marist; **Outfielders** – Luke Dickens, Jr., Oconee County; Luke Grant, Sr., Heritage-Catoosa; Kevin Henry, Sr., Hardaway; Carlos Robinson, Sr., Cedartown; Robbie Tillman, Jr., Columbus; **Designated Hitter** – Lane Watkins, Jr., Jefferson;
Utility – Drew Torek, Sr., Burke County

REGION 1-4A

Region Favorite: Columbus

Players to Watch

RHP/INF – Jonathan Brand, Sr., Columbus
3B – DJ Collins, Jr., Cairo
RHP/INF – Waggener Davidson, Sr., Northside-Columbus
3B/RHP – Hunter Duke, Jr., Hardaway
RHP/1B – Trent Grantham, Sr., Columbus
OF – Kevin Henry, Sr., Hardaway
RHP/OF/2B – Jonathan Manibusan, Sr., Hardaway
C – Alex Marquand, Sr., Shaw
OF/RHP – Nick Mitchum, Sr., Westover
OF/3B – Kaleb Podger, Sr., Shaw
OF – Hunter Poe, So., Northside-Columbus
SS/RHP – Tray Richburg, So., Northside-Columbus
C – Ben Schorr, So., Columbus
RHP/1B – Davis Spalinger, Sr., Westover
CF/RHP – Robbie Tillman, Jr., Columbus
RHP/INF – Brian Trepanier, Sr., Shaw

AMERICUS-SUMTER PANTHERS

Head Coach: Preston Shackelford (new)

Survey not returned

CAIRO SYRUPMAKERS

Head Coach: Chad Parkerson (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Gary Smith, Jonathan Moore, Richard Brimm

2017 Record: 23-8

Returning Starters: 3B DJ Collins (Jr., R/R); LHP/OF Blake Touchton (So., L/L); RHP/OF Garrett Gainous (So., R/R); C JT Andrews (So., R/R); INF/U Hunter Harrison (Sr., R/R); INF/C Christian McDugle (Jr., R/R)

Other Returning Players: C Slade Baggett (Sr., R/R); U Conor Johnson (Sr., R/R); 1B/RHP Benji Prince (Jr., R/R); 3B/RHP Chance Scott (Jr., R/R)

Top Newcomers: INF Hayes Stills (So., R/R); U Dawson Humphries (So., R/R); OF Cameron Cooper (So., L/R)

Season Outlook: Former Thomas County Central coach Chad Parkerson takes over and inherits six returning starters. The biggest weakness is the lack of experienced pitching. The good news is that third baseman DJ Collins returns (.378 avg., 16 RBIs) to lead the offense. Look for a solid corps of juniors and sophomores to contribute.

CARVER-COLUMBUS TIGERS

Head Coach: Andy Hicks

Survey not returned

COLUMBUS BLUE DEVILS

Head Coach: Chad Mathis

Assistant Coach

(s): Robert Morgan, John Randall Lasetter, McLendon Hill, Matthew Rossi, Cam Greathouse

2017 Record: 21-13

Returning Starters:

RHP/INF Jonathan Brand (Sr., 5-10, 160, R/R); RHP/1B Trent Grantham (Sr., 6-5, 215, L/R); INF Trent Swinehart (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/R); SS/OF Zach Foster (Sr., 5-11, 160, R/R); CF/RHP Robbie Tillman (Jr., 6-2, 175, R/R); C Ben Schorr (So., 5-11, 175, R/R)

Other Returning

Players: OF Coleman Strother (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/R); RHP/1B Adam Neff (Sr., 6-3, 180, R/R); OF Mike Ramsey (Sr., 6-1, 175, R/R); RHP/INF Colby Brabston (Jr., 6-1, 170, L/R); RHP/INF Austin Hicks (Jr., 5-10, 175, L/R)



Jonathan Brand
Columbus



Trent Grantham
Columbus



Ben Schorr
Columbus



Robbie Tillman
Columbus

Season Outlook: Columbus should be one of the team's to beat in Region 1-4A. The biggest strength is a talented pitching rotation consisting of Jonathan Brand, Trent Grantham and Robbie Tillman. Zach Foster, Trent Swinehart and Ben Schorr return to lead the offense.

HARDAWAY HAWKS

Head Coach: Chris Gilstrap

Assistant Coach (s):

Mike Getkin,
Eric Anthony

2017 Record: 17-17

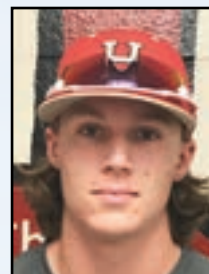
Returning Starters:

RHP/OF/2B Jonathan Manibusan (Sr., 5-10, 170, R/R); OF Kevin Henry (Sr., 5-10, 160, R/R); 3B/RHP Hunter Duke (Jr., 6-1, 185, R/R); LHP/1B/OF Tristan Driver (Jr., 6-1, 170, L/L)

Other Returning Players: 2B Chris Mack (Sr., 5-11, 155, R/R); OF Bingery Walton (Sr., 6-0, 215, R/R); OF Chad Floore (Jr., 5-10, 145, R/R); C Joseph Crowell (Jr., 5-10, 220, R/R); RHP/1B Robert McDaniel (Sr., 5-11, 170, R/R)

Top Newcomers: OF Caleb Morgan (Sr., 5-9, 160, R/R); OF Jordan Parker (So., 6-0, 170, R/R)

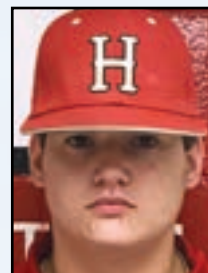
Season Outlook: The Hawks got hot late last season and made a strong run in the playoffs. Four starters return from that team, and they should help Hardaway challenge for the playoffs again. Pitcher Jonathan Manibusan and outfielder Kevin Henry are a pair of senior standouts expected to lead the way. Keep an eye on junior third baseman/pitcher Hunter Duke.



Hunter Duke
Hardaway



Kevin Henry
Hardaway



Jonathan Manibusan
Hardaway



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Matthew G. Stewart, MD - Foot & Ankle, Hip & Knee Reconstruction, Orthopaedic Trauma & Sports Medicine

Michael M. Tucker Jr., MD - Knee, Shoulder, Foot, Ankle & Sports Medicine

John I. Waldrop, MD - General Orthopaedics, Total Joint Replacement

B. Collier Watson, DO - General Orthopaedics, Foot & Ankle

NORTHSIDE-COLUMBUS PATRIOTS

Head Coach: Dee Miller

Assistant Coach (s): Steve Sparks, Derek Branch, David Buchanan, Greg Stotser, Chase Slocumb, Blake Cooper

2017 Record: 18-15

Returning Starters: RHP/INF Waggener Davidson (Sr., 6-0, 170, R/R); RHP/INF Colton Joyner (Jr., 6-2, 220, R/R); INF Bowden McMullen (Sr., 6-3, 200, R/R); OF Hunter Poe (So., 5-9, 165, L/L); INF Bailey Richburg (Sr., 5-10, 165, L/R); OF Mack Williams (So., 5-11, 165, R/R); INF Clayton Weaver (Jr., 5-11, 170, L/R); SS/RHP Tray Richburg (So., 5-11, 165, R/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP Rivers Buice (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/R); RHP/OF Caleb Johnson (Sr., 6-3, 225, R/R); RHP/INF Austin Fitts (Sr., 5-11, 180, R/R); OF Brenden Hoppe (Sr., 5-8, 160, R/R); OF Myles Collier (Sr., 5-9, 160, L/L); OF/RHP Trey Anthony (Jr., 6-1, 180, R/R); OF/RHP Spencer Chandler (Jr., 5-11, 165, R/R); INF/RHP Charles Stephenson (Jr., 6-0, 175, R/R)

Season Outlook: Northside should challenge for the Region 1-4A title as eight starters are back. Pitcher/infielder Waggener Davidson returns to lead the team. Keep an eye on outfielder Hunter Poe and shortstop/pitcher Tray Richburg who were promising as freshmen last year.



Waggener Davidson
Northside-Columbus

SHAW RAIDERS

Head Coach: Pat McGregor

Assistant Coach (s):

Ben Hudson, Rad Mitchell, Christian Wiggs

2017 Record: 13-15

Returning Starters: C Alex Marquand (Sr., 5-10, 170, L/R); RHP/INF Brian Trepanier (Sr., 6-0, 180, R/R); 1B Mikey Berrios (Sr., 5-10, 160, R/R); OF/3B Kaleb Podger (Sr., 6-2, 175, L/R); CF Wesley Johnson (Jr., 5-11, 165, L/R); RHP Owen Lakeman (Sr., 6-3, 165, R/R)

Other Returning

Players: U Kyle Ammons (Sr., 6-3, 160, R/R); INF Jagger Smith (Jr., 5-8, 150, L/R); LHP Joseph Clendenin (Jr., 6-1, 165, R/L); OF Andre Lacy (Sr., 5-10, 175, R/R); RHP/OF Andrew Lacy (Jr., 5-11, 180, R/R)

Season Outlook: Shaw seeks to improve upon last season's record as six starters return. Catcher Alex Marquand and outfielder/third baseman Kaleb Podger return to lead the offense, while right-hander pitcher Brian Trepanier leads a solid group of returning pitchers.



Owen Lakeman
Shaw



Alex Marquand
Shaw



Kaleb Podger
Shaw



Brian Trepanier
Shaw

WESTOVER PATRIOTS

Head Coach: Jordan Cambron

Assistant Coach (s): Ronnye Nelson, David Spalinger

2017 Record: 3-19

Returning Starters: RHP/OF Nick Mitchum (Sr., 6-1, 160, R/R); RHP/OF/1B Davis Spalinger (Sr., 6-2, 155, R/R); SS Donovan Wright (Sr., 5-9, 150, R/R); 2B/C/RHP James Milliner (Sr., 5-8, 150, R/R); C/OF Eric Rutherford (Sr., 5-10, 150, R/R); LHP/1B DeJuan Canty (Sr. 5-9, 190, L/L); RHP/OF Kedarius Cunningham (Jr., 5-11, 160, R/R); 3B Cameron Hopkins (So., 5-9, 145, L/R); OF/RHP/C La'Borris Buchanan (So., 5-5, 145, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Keith Pratt (Jr., 5-11, 175, R/R); OF Malcolm Mathis (So., 5-9, 150, L/R)

Season Outlook: A strong group of returners should help Westover improve upon last season's finish. Six senior starters, including outfielder/pitcher Nick Mitchum and versatile standout Davis Spalinger return. Keep an eye on shortstop Donovan Wright who was promising last year.

REGION 2-4A

Region Favorite: West Laurens

Players to Watch

SS – Guy Anderberg, Sr., West Laurens

RHP – Chase Coppock, Sr., Spalding

RHP/1B – Nolan Daniel, Sr., West Laurens

C/RHP – Clayton Davis, Sr., Perry

RHP/1B – Jacob Floyd, Sr., West Laurens

RHP/3B – Logan Harris, Sr., Howard

3B – Jacob Hunt, Sr., Perry

SS/RHP – John Micah Law, Sr., Perry

1B – Aaron Mock, Sr., Mary Persons

SS/OF – Trippe Moore, So., Mary Persons

1B/DH/RHP – Bryce Morgan, Sr., Perry

CF – Trace Park, Sr., Upson-Lee

RHP/2B – Cotton Phillips, Sr., Upson-Lee

RHP/1B – Ty Rechterovic, So., Upson-Lee

2B – JD Richards, Sr., Mary Persons

HOWARD HUSKIES

Head Coach: Danny Slaughter

Assistant Coach (s): Darryl Johnson, Joe Allen, Brandon Durden

2017 Record: 9-20

Returning Starters: RHP/3B Logan Harris (Sr., 5-9, 165, R/R); SS/RHP Spencer Moon (Jr., 5-11, 150, R/R); 2B/RHP Bradley Smith (Jr., 6-0, 150, R/R); OF/RHP Trent Brown (Jr., 5-11, 165, R/R); C Scott Campbell (So., 5-8, 140, R/R)

Other Returning Players: 1B Collin Blackwell (Jr., 5-11, 170, L/R); 3B Conner Breland (Sr., 6-2, 230, R/R); C Yeager Cameron (Sr., 5-6, 130, R/R); SS/RHP Jonathan Jones (Jr., 5-10, 145, R/R); LHP Sean Jordan (Sr., 6-5, 190, L/L); LHP Austin Fuller (Sr., 6-2, 220, L/L)

Top Newcomers: LHP/1B Chris Andrews (So., 6-0, 190, L/L); OF Justin Smith (So., 5-7, 130, R/R)

Season Outlook: Howard will look to improve upon last season's finish. The Huskies have five returning starters and a solid corps of seniors to lead the team. Pitcher/third baseman Logan Harris is a player to keep an eye on. Look for some juniors to step forward.

MARY PERSONS BULLDOGS

Head Coach: Clae Mathis

Assistant Coach (s): Michael Smallwood, Devon Crouse, Josh Ward

2017 Record: 19-13

Returning Starters: C Alex Kite (Jr., R/R); 1B Aaron Mock (Sr., R/R); 2B JD Richards (Sr., R/R); 3B/SS Austin Mock (Jr., R/R); SS/OF Trippe Moore (So., R/R); DH/C Christian Knight (Sr., R/R); 2B/OF Cam Agnew (Sr., R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Ladondre Buckner (Sr., R/R); OF Tre Slaton (Sr., R/R); C Jake Newton (Sr., R/R); RHP TJ Sauls (Sr., R/R); OF Brian Buchanan (Sr., R/R); OF/RHP Conner Watson (So., R/R); LHP Garrett James (Jr., L/L)

Top Newcomers: 3B Cody Wilson (So., R/R); 1B Nate Howard (So., R/R); OF Cameron Kearney (So., R/R); 2B/OF Xavier Soule (So., R/R); INF Jeremiah Andrews (So., R/R)

Season Outlook: Look for Mary Persons to make a run at the playoffs in coach Clae Mathis' second season. The Bulldogs have seven returning starters, including leading hitters JD Richards (.318 avg.) and Aaron Mock (.407 avg., 13 RBIs). Shortstop/outfielder Trippe Moore is back after a promising freshman season.

PERRY PANTHERS

Head Coach: Tim Hutchens (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Matt Wood, Daniel Wood, Tanner Smith

2017 Record: 13-18

Returning Starters: C/RHP Clayton Davis (Sr., 6-5, 200, R/R); 3B Jacob Hunt (Sr., 5-10, 205, R/R); SS/RHP John Micah Law (Sr., 5-11, 165, R/R); 1B/DH/RHP Bryce Morgan (Sr., 6-6, 260, R/R)

Other Returning Players: 3B/RHP Seth Creamer (Sr., 5-10, 220, R/R); 2B/RHP Trevor Dykes (Sr., 5-10, 165, R/R); 2B/OF/RHP Justin Eckman (Sr., 5-11, 145, R/R); OF Tyler Hairrington (Sr., 6-2, 175, R/R); 2B/SS/RHP Tanner Wilson (Sr., 5-11, 170, R/R); 1B/RHP Cameron Mashburn (Jr., 6-2, 235, R/R); OF Andrew Newhouse (Jr., 5-10, 160, L/R)

Top Newcomers: U/RHP Beau Bryant (Jr., 5-11, 145, R/R)

Season Outlook: Former assistant coach Tim Hutchens takes over and inherits five returning starters. The Panthers welcome the return of senior John Micah Law (7-4, 1.59 ERA) and Bryce Morgan (2-1, 3.40 ERA; .373 avg., 23 RBIs). Third baseman Jacob Hunt and catcher/pitcher Clayton Davis return to lead the offense.

SPALDING JAGUARS

Head Coach: Seth Harris (new)

Survey not returned

UPSON LEE KNIGHTS

Head Coach: Tommy Parks (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Jonathan Thompson, Edward Peyton

2017 Record: 11-13

Returning Starters: CF Trace Park (Sr., R/R); RHP/2B Cotton Phillips (Sr., R/R); 3B Tanner Crews (Sr., R/R); RHP/1B Ty Rechterovic (So., L/R); 1B Matt Screws (Sr., B/R)

Other Returning Players: 3B/RHP Alex Blount (Sr., R/R); C Josh Keeter (Sr., R/R); OF/RHP Lawson Rucker (Jr., R/R); OF/LHP Trevor Crews (Jr., R/L); OF Tripp Greer (Sr., R/R); SS Turner Maddox (So., L/R)

Season Outlook: New coach Tommy Parks will look to help Ups-

Lee rebound from last season's 11-13 finish. Parks inherits five starters. Outfielder Trace Park (.328 avg.) returns to spark the offense, while Cotton Phillips and Ty Rechterovic head up a solid pitching rotation.

WEST LAURENS RAIDERS

Head Coach: Brian Brown

Assistant Coach (s): Jody Pollock, Scott White

2017 Record: 23-12

Returning Starters: RHP/1B Nolan Daniel (Sr., 6-4, 240, R/R); RHP/1B Jacob Floyd (Sr., 5-10, 210, R/R); SS Guy Anderberg (Sr., 6-0, 175, R/R); C/DH Austin Green (Sr., 6-0, 240, R/R); OF Beau Mullis (Sr., 5-10, 165, R/R); 2B Brandon Bruton (Sr., 6-0, 155, R/R); OF E.J. Holmes (Jr., 6-0, 180, R/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP Kaleb Giddens (Sr., 6-4, 175, R/R); INF Jarrett Tipton (Sr., 6-0, 155, R/R); DH Jaylen Baker (Jr., 5-9, 240, R/R); OF/RHP McKinley Kemp (Jr., 6-0, 175, R/R); RHP Evan Stokes (Jr., 6-1, 155, R/R); INF Paul Kellam (So., 6-0, 160, B/R); C/1B Brody Slaughter (So., 6-0, 180, L/R); LHP/OF A.J. Mathis (So., 6-0, 170, L/L); OF/RHP Sam Riner (So., 5-10, 140, R/R); OF Parker Woods (So., 5-10, 140, R/R); INF Zach Thomas (So., 5-8, 135, R/R); RHP Wade Brantley (So., 6-2, 175, R/R)

Top Newcomers: INF/RHP Colton Scott (Fr., R/R); C Bradley Wilson (Fr., R/R); LHP/1B Tyler Franks (Fr., L/L); INF Carson Estep (Fr., R/R); INF Keaton Brown (Fr., R/R); RHP/INF Jerrett Stewart (Fr., R/R); OF Logan Slaughter (Fr., R/R); RHP Gavin White (Fr., R/R); OF/RHP Greyson Clark (Fr., R/R); OF/LHP Matthew O'Neal (Fr., R/L); INF Trace Woodard (Fr., R/R); OF Evan Carter (Fr., R/R)

Season Outlook: Look for West Laurens to be strong again as seven starters are back. Region 2-4A Pitcher of the Year Nolan Daniel and pitcher Jacob Floyd lead a strong pitching rotation. Meanwhile, shortstop Guy Anderberg returns to lead the offense.



Nolan Daniel - West Laurens
Photo by Rodney Manley

REGION 3-4A

Region Favorite: Burke County

Players to Watch

3B/RHP - Houston Copeland, Sr., Burke County

OF - Victor Hill, Sr., Baldwin

OF - David Hollie, Sr., Cross Creek

SS/RHP - Adonis Kendrick, Sr., Thomson

RHP/SS - Bill Knight, Sr., Burke County

1B - George McKenzie, Sr., Burke County

SS/RHP - Preston Price, So., Burke County

OF/RHP - Mills Ridings, Sr., Thomson

3B - Jordan Rouse, Sr., Baldwin

RHP/3B - Chase Smith, Jr., Thomson

C - Drew Torek, Sr., Burke County

BALDWIN BRAVES

Head Coach: William Emadi

Assistant Coach (s): Tyler Clifford

2017 Record: 15-15-2

Returning Starters: 1B Nathan Rouse (So., 6-1, 175, L/L); OF CJ Hurst (Jr., 5-10, 175, R/R); OF Donte Justice (Jr., 5-10, 170, R/R); OF Dylan Sallad (Jr., 5-6, 160, R/R); C Erron Bolston (Jr., 5-8, 190, R/R); OF Victor Hill (Sr., 6-1, 190, R/R); 3B Jordan Rouse (Sr., 6-0, 185, R/R)

Other Returning Players: SS Anquez Thomas (Jr., R/R); 2B Chris Williams (Jr., L/R); OF Bailey Hamilton (So., R/R)

Season Outlook: The senior class is small, but look for Baldwin to contend for a postseason berth. Seven starters are back, including a pair of senior standouts in outfielder Victor Hill (.455 avg., 7 3B) and third baseman Jordan Rouse (.366 avg., 21 RBIs). Look for a strong group of juniors to contribute.

BURKE COUNTY BEARS

Head Coach: Billy Marchman

Assistant Coach (s):

Knox Marchman

2017 Record: 18-6

Returning Starters: SS/RHP Bill Knight (Sr., 6-0, 185, R/R); C Drew Torek (Sr., 5-11, 175, L/R); 1B George McKenzie (Sr., 6-1, 185, R/R); 3B/RHP Houston Copeland (Sr., 6-0, 205, L/R); CF/RHP



Bill Knight
Burke County



Drew Torek
Burke County

Colby Baker (Jr., 5-9, 160, R/R); RF Keenan Bennett (Jr., 5-9, 155, L/L); LF Dougie Springer (Jr., 5-11, 170, R/R); SS/RHP Preston Price (So., 5-9, 180, R/R)

Other Returning Players: 3B/C Kameron Skinner (So., 5-9, 185, B/R); OF Jalin Simon (Jr., 5-8, 150, L/L); U Nisaiah Carter (Jr., 5-10, 160, R/R); U JT Philpott (Sr., 5-9, 155, R/R)

Top Newcomers: 2B/C Evan Richardson (Fr., 5-8, 155, R/R); U Justin Griffin (So., 5-7, 150, R/R)

Season Outlook: Look for Burke County to contend for the region title this season. The Bears could have perhaps their best team since 2001. Eight starters are back, including a talented senior class. Shortstop/pitcher Bill Knight (.533 avg., 30 RBIs) and catcher Drew Torek (.419 avg., 18 RBIs) are two players to keep an eye on.

CROSS CREEK RAZORBACKS

Head Coach: Tavis Cummings

Assistant Coach (s): TBA

2017 Record: 17-10

Returning Starters: OF/RHP David Hollie (Sr., 6-3, 210, R/R); RHP Logan Howell (Jr., 5-8, 145, R/R); C/1B Bryce Neely (Jr., 6-2, 180, R/R); 2B Matthew Sumpter (Jr., 5-5, 120, R/R); OF/RHP Jalen White (Sr., 6-1, 160, R/R); OF Christopher Patterson (Jr., 5-9, 170, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Tahjai Safford (Sr., 5-9, 150, R/R); OF Bryson McCray (Sr., 5-9, 215, R/R); C Austin Armstrong (So., 5-8, 165, R/R)

Season Outlook: The Razorbacks will contend for the Region 3-4A crown again as six starters are back. Outfielder/pitcher David Hollie is one of the state's top players. With a little more experience, this team will be trouble.

HEPHZIBAH REBELS

Head Coach: TBA

Survey not returned

RICHMOND ACADEMY MUSKETEERS

Head Coach: Steven Leathers

Survey not returned

THOMSON BULLDOGS

Head Coach: Brad Smith

Assistant Coach (s):

Brett Chalker, Nick Rau

2017 Record: 14-11

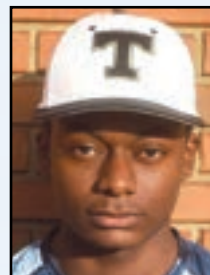
Returning Starters: SS/RHP Adonis Kendrick (Sr., 5-9, 170, R/R); OF/RHP Mills Ridings (Sr., 6-0, 180, R/R); RHP/3B Chase Smith (Jr., 6-0, 200, L/R); C Devin McNair (Jr., 5-10, 165, R/R)

Other Returning

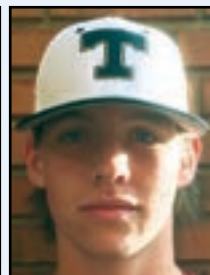
Players: OF Smith Adams (Sr., 5-9, 155, R/R); OF Mathew Brown (Sr., 5-10, 235, R/R); RHP/2B Brannon Gregory (Sr., 5-8, 135, R/R); 1B/RHP Jackson Mathews (Sr., 6-4, 190, R/R); C Jackson Purvis (So., 5-9, 150, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP/OF Ricardo Dena (Jr., 5-10, 150, R/R); OF Chase Chance (Jr., 5-9, 145, R/R); 2B/RHP Lee Portwood (Jr., 5-10, 145, R/R); 3B/RHP Kobe Walker (Jr., 5-11, 260, R/R); SS Anthony Grant (Sr., 5-10, 240, R/R)

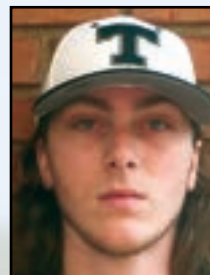
Season Outlook: Thomson welcomes four returning starters, but the Bulldogs must develop some pitching depth to contend for the region title. Pitcher Chase Smith leads a young rotation. The good news is that the Bulldogs return shortstop Adonis Kendrick and outfielder Mills Ridings, two experienced players who will be expected to lead the offense along with catcher Devin McNair.



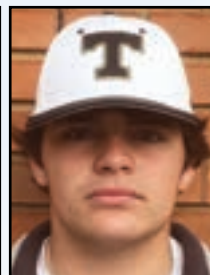
Adonis Kendrick
Thomson



Jackson Mathews
Thomson



Devin McNair
Thomson



Chase Smith
Thomson

REGION 4-4A

Region Favorite: Woodward Academy

Players to Watch

RHP/3B – Mason Carnes, Jr., Woodward Academy

C – Ethan Cornelius, Sr., Woodward Academy

SS/RHP – Cole Green, Sr., Eastside

LHP/1B – Wesley Maxey, Jr., Woodward Academy

RHP – Jordan Sayles, Sr., Woodward Academy

INF/OF/RHP – Ryan Shirley, Sr., Eastside

RHP/3B – Michael Sorrow, Jr., Woodward Academy

RHP/SS – Alan Thompson, Jr., Woodward Academy

RHP/OF – Christian Wylde, Jr., Woodward Academy

DRUID HILLS RED DEVILS

Head Coach: Pete Bartlewski

Survey not returned

EASTSIDE EAGLES

Head Coach: Bruce Evans

Assistant Coach (s): Brandon Crumbley, Trey Camps, Brandon Bales, Jared Jones, Shane Griffin

2017 Record: 20-9

Returning Starters: SS/RHP Cole Green (Sr., 5-10, 160, R/R); INF/OF/RHP Ryan Shirley (Sr., 6-0, 170, L/R); OF/RHP Eric Shirley (Sr., 5-9, 150, L/R); OF Tanner Feeney (Sr., 6-0, 200, R/R); OF/3B Colby Shivers (So., 6-0, 185, R/R); 2B Noah Cook (So., 5-10, 170, R/R); RHP/OF Riley Ralston (Sr., 6-0, 180, R/R)

Other Returning Players: 1B John Robert McGowan (Jr., 6-1, 200, L/R); OF/INF Jackson Watts (So., 5-9, 160, R/R)

Top Newcomers: OF/RHP Aron Cox (Jr., 6-1, 210, R/R)

Season Outlook: The Eagles lost a good bit of talent from last season's squad that won 20 games. The good news is that six starters return, four of them seniors. Shortstop/pitcher Cole Green and third baseman/pitcher Ryan Shirley return to lead the way.

HENRY COUNTY WARHAWKS

Head Coach: Doug Lee

Survey not returned

LUELLA LIONS

Head Coach: Tom Kelley (new)

Survey not returned

NORTH CLAYTON EAGLES

Head Coach: Richard Flowers

Survey not returned

SALEM SEMINOLES

Head Coach: Michael Phiel

Survey not returned

WOODWARD ACADEMY WAR EAGLES

Head Coach: Jim Minor

Assistant Coach (s):

Jose Fernandez, Kenny Hopkins, John Hurston

2017 Record: 25-7

Returning Starters: C Ethan Cornelius (Sr., 6-0, 180, L/R); RHP Jordan Sayles (Sr., 6-1, 175, R/R); RHP/OF Christian Wylder (Jr., 5-11, 185, R/R); LHP/1B Wesley Maxey (Jr., 6-0, 195, L/L); RHP/3B Mason Carnes (Jr., 5-11, 180, R/R); RHP/SS Allen Thompson (Jr., 5-11, 175, R/R); RHP/3B Michael Sorrow (Jr., 5-10, 180, R/R); OF Chandler Fulton (Sr., 5-9, 175, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Sam Drucker (Sr., 5-11, 180, L/L); 2B/SS/RHP Reid Christensen (Jr., 6-2, 175, R/R); 3B/1B/RHP Will Sanders (So., 6-4, 195, R/R); RHP Pete Weil (Sr., 6-1, 175, R/R); C Alex Vaughn (Jr., 5-9, 175, R/R)

Top Newcomers: OF Dwight Allen (So., 6-0, 185, R/R); 1B/OF Henry Freer (Jr., 5-11, 175, R/R); 2B/3B/RHP David Green (Jr., 5-11, 175, R/R);



Ethan Cornelius
Woodward Academy



Jordan Sayles
Woodward Academy

OF/RHP Parker Kahlert (Jr., 6-0, 180, R/R); OF/RHP Will Wagner (Jr., 5-9, 175, R/R); C Turner Kurzweg (Jr., 5-10, 185, R/R); OF/1B/RHP Charlie Hollis (Jr., 6-1, 180, R/R)

Season Outlook: Woodward Academy will be expected to contend for the Region 4-4A title again this season as eight starters return. Keep an eye on catcher Ethan Cornelius (.359 avg., 37 RBIs) and pitcher Jordan Sayles (3-3, 2.41 ERA). A solid group of juniors will help out.

REGION 5-4A

Region Favorite: Troup

Players to Watch

C – Trent Bailey, Jr., LaGrange

RHP – Mason Barnett, Jr., Cartersville

SS – Ryan Bliss, Sr., Troup

C – Cooper Doughman, Jr., Troup

OF – Ben Farrar, Sr., LaGrange

OF/INF – Cole Freeman, Sr., LaGrange

1B/RHP/C – Jake Gooch, Sr., Cartersville

CF – Markell Graham, Sr., Sandy Creek

RHP/INF/C – Jack Haney, Sr., Cedartown

1B/LHP – Joe Hernandez, Sr., Chapel Hill

RHP – Dylan High, Sr., Central-Carrollton

RHP – John Morgan, Sr., LaGrange

SS/3B/RHP – Michael Rich, Sr., Chapel Hill

OF – Carlos Robinson, Sr., Cedartown

C/RHP/LHP – Anthony Seigler, Sr., Cartersville

RHP – Ben Stogner, Sr., LaGrange

SS – Devin Warner, Sr., Cartersville

RHP/3B – Colby Williams, Jr., Troup

CARTERSVILLE PURPLE HURRICANES

Head Coach: Kyle Tucker (new)

Assistant Coach (s):

Brandon Patch, Brian Adams, David Cagle

2017 Record: 22-10

Returning Starters: C/RHP/LHP Anthony Seigler (Sr., 5-11, 190, B/B); SS Devin Warner (Sr., 6-3, 205, B/R); 1B/RHP/C Jake Gooch (Sr., 5-10, 185, R/R); RHP

Mason Barnett (Jr., 5-11, 190, R/R); RHP/C/1B J.P. Martin (Jr., 5-10, 180, R/R); OF/LHP Preston Welchel (Jr., 5-10, 175, L/L); INF Jordan Wilkie (Jr., 6-1, 190, R/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP Curtis Wilkes (Sr., 6-3, 205, R/R); INF John Reed Evans (Sr., 5-9, 170, R/R); INF LaDarius Winburn (Sr., 5-10, 175, R/R); OF Khase Willis (Sr., 5-11, 180, L/R); RHP Levi Ayers (Sr., 6-2, 190, R/R); OF Josh Mayo (Sr., 5-10, 170, R/R); RHP Jake Norris (Sr., 5-10, 205, R/R); INF Brant Smith (Jr., 6-3, 195, R/R); OF/LHP Ian Inaba (Jr.,



Mason Barnett
Cartersville



Jake Gooch
Cartersville

5-10, 190, L/L); OF/RHP Kolby Adams (Jr., 6-0, 180, R/R)

Top Newcomers: INF Josh Davis (So., 5-11, 190, R/R); INF Chandler Tromza (So., 6-0, 195, R/R)

Season Outlook: Longtime assistant Kyle Tucker takes over and inherits seven returning starters, including ambidexterous catcher/pitcher Anthony Seigler and shortstop Devin Warner. Pitching should be strong as Mason Barnett, JP Martin, Jake Gooch and Preston Welchel all return.

CEDARTOWN BULLDOGS

Head Coach: Doyle Kelley

Assistant Coach (s): Gevin Johnson, Dustin Little, Cam Wallace, Ryan Prince

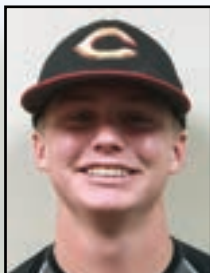
2017 Record: 20-7

Returning Starters: RHP/INF/C Jack Haney (Sr., 5-10, 185, R/R); OF/INF Carlos Robinson (Sr., 5-10, 170, R/R); INF Easton Oxenrider (So., 5-5, 130, R/R); OF/RHP Griffin Elder (So., 5-8, 135, R/R)

Other Returning Players: C/RHP Dalton Bowman (Jr., 6-0, 190, R/R); INF/OF Will Sanders (Sr., 5-10, 160, R/R); INF Brycen Quarles (Jr., 6-1, 205, R/R); INF Tyler Gosdin (Jr., 5-8, 185, R/R); INF Bryson Cheatwood (Jr., 6-1, 210, R/R); C/RHP Jacob Cody (Jr., 5-10, 205, R/R); OF/LHP Chadriq Neal (So., 5-9, 150, R/L); OF Nick Huddleston (Sr., 5-10, 155, R/R)

Top Newcomers: INF/RHP Cade Dingler (Fr., 5-10, 150, R/R); OF/INF Zane Barrow (Fr., 6-0, 155, R/R); OF/RHP Corben Cuzzort (Fr., 6-0, 170, R/R); OF Kobe Pryor (So., 6-0, 185, R/L); 2B Davares Frazier (So., 5-9, 165, R/R)

Season Outlook: Cedartown lost a wealth of talent from last season's team that won 20 games and made the state playoffs. Only four starters are back. The good news is that one of those is the versatile Jack Haney (.500 avg., 25 RBIs; 5-1). A good group of underclassmen will need to step forward.



Jack Haney
Cedartown



Carlos Robinson
Cedartown

CENTRAL-CARROLLTON LIONS

Head Coach: Wes Shiver

Assistant Coach (s): BJ Long, Brian Vance, Nathan Urquhart, Ken Minick, Chas Pardue

2017 Record: 9-20

Returning Starters: RHP/OF Dylan High (Sr., 6-3, 175, R/R); INF Dylan McKinley (Sr., 5-11, 185, R/R); INF Austin Helton (Jr., 5-6, 165, R/R); OF Dimaujae Kinchen (Sr., 5-11, 185, R/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP Tre Singleton (Sr., 6-0, 165, R/R); RHP Drew Carroll (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/R); 1B/DH Kaden Taylor (Sr., 6-4, 200, R/R); RHP Logan Velez (Jr., 6-2, 170, R/R); DH/C Noah Taylor (Jr., 6-1, 245, R/R); OF/RHP Reid Lovvorn (Jr., 6-2, 170, L/R); OF Matthew Simmons (Sr., 5-10, 165, R/R)

Top Newcomers: 3B/RHP Bradley Queen (Jr., 6-0, 160, R/R); OF Davis Leblanc (Jr., 5-9, 150, R/R); C Carson Carroll (So., 5-10, 160, R/R); RHP/1B Casey Casseen (So., 5-10, 170, R/R); INF Andrew Allums (Jr., 5-10, 160, R/R)

Season Outlook: Central seeks to improve on last season's finish as four starters return. Right-handed pitcher Dylan High returns to lead the pitching rotation. Infielders Dylan McKinley and Austin Helton return, while outfielder Dimaujae Kinchen is back to lead the offense. Some younger players must mature quickly.

CHAPEL HILL PANTHERS

Head Coach: Alan Adair

Assistant Coach (s): Bobby Neil, Doug Allen, Adam Graham

2017 Record: 9-20

Returning Starters: SS/3B/RHP Michael Rich (Sr., 5-8, 155, L/R); OF/LHP Jamel Rookard (Sr., 5-5, 145, L/L); OF/LHP Demetrius Foster (Sr., 5-10, 160, L/L); 1B/LHP Joe Hernandez (Sr., 6-2, 250, L/L); INF/OF/RHP Chase Coker (Sr., 6-0, 180, L/R); C Jayce Purcell (Sr., 5-10, 155, R/R); SS Karen Valentin (So., 5-8, 135, R/R);

Top Newcomers: OF Andrew Walker (Jr., 5-10, 160, R/R)

Season Outlook: An excellent group of returners are back for the Panthers who seek to improve upon last season's finish. An excellent senior class will lead the way. Keep an eye on Joe Hernandez, Michael Rich, Chase Coker and Demetrius Foster who had solid junior seasons.

LAGRANGE GRANGERS

Head Coach: David Smart

Assistant Coach (s): Lee Phelps, Chad Grant, Steven Tanner

2017 Record: 26-13

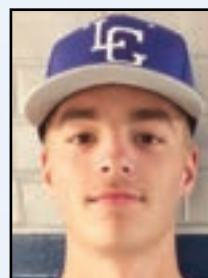
Returning Starters: INF/RHP Charles Crawford (So., R/R); INF/RHP Cole Freeman (Sr., R/R); RHP John Morgan (Sr., R/R); OF Ben Farrar (Sr., R/R); RHP Ben Stogner (Sr., R/R); 1B Seth Prather (Sr., R/R)

Other Returning Players: Cole Sanders (Jr., L/L); Brant Williams (So., R/R); Cole Crawford (So., R/R); Wesley Kuhn (Jr., R/R)

Top Newcomers: C Trent Bailey (Jr., R/R)

Season Outlook: LaGrange made a deep

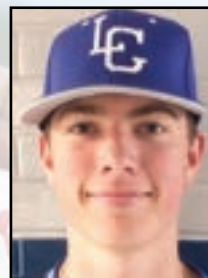
postseason run last year, and the Grangers will be in the region chase again. Six starters are back, including pitchers John Morgan and Ben Stogner. Outfielder Ben Farrar, Cole Freeman and Seth Prather return to lead the offense. Keep an eye on infielder/pitcher Charles Crawford, who was promising as a freshman last year.



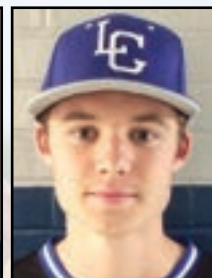
Ben Farrar
LaGrange



Cole Freeman
LaGrange



John Morgan
LaGrange



Ben Stogner
LaGrange

SANDY CREEK PATRIOTS

Head Coach: Eddy Householder (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Cody Sweeney, A.J. Ellis, Karsten Bailey

2017 Record: 16-14

Returning Starters: OF/RHP Conner Housley (Jr., 6-1, 160, L/R); RHP Tyler Peavy (Jr., 6-0, 160, L/R); OF TJ Peavy (Sr., 6-0, 200, R/R); OF Markell Graham (Sr., 5-11, 185, R/R)

Other Returning Players: LHP Aaron Hackell (Sr., 5-9, 160, L/L); RHP/OF John Marant (So., 6-4, 175, L/R); RHP/OF Logan Byerly (So., 5-9, 150, R/R); RHP/INF Peyton Riley (Sr., 6-0, 160, R/R); 1B Brian Siefert (So., 5-11, 145, L/R); SS Demirez Grier (Jr., 5-11, 150, R/R); 2B Kanoti McDaniel (Sr., 5-8, 140, R/R)

Season Outlook: Longtime coach Eddy Householder takes back over at Sandy Creek after the Patriots won 16 games last year and competed for the postseason. Four starters are back. Outfielder Markell Graham returns to lead the offense.

TROUP TIGERS

Head Coach: Craig Garner

Assistant Coach (s):

Richie Barber, Blake Barber, Brock Barber, Mason Brackett, Carson Dempsey, Josh King

2017 Record: 23-13

Returning Starters:

SS Ryan Bliss (Sr., 5-9, 160, R/R); RHP/3B Colby Williams (Jr., 5-10, 185, R/R); C Cooper

Doughman (Jr., 6-2, 215, R/R); OF Kinley Bridwell (Sr., 6-1, 200, R/R); 2B Marshall Morris (Sr., 5-7, 150, R/R); OF/LHP Brantly Robinson (Sr., 5-5, 140, L/L)

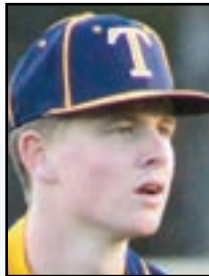
Other Returning Players: OF/RHP Cade Garner (So., 5-10, 150, R/R); RHP Colton Greathouse (Sr., 5-7, 190, R/R); OF Luke Purnell (So., 6-0, 175, R/R); INF Caleb McCurry (So., 5-10, 175, R/R); INF Trace Meadows (Jr., 5-10, 155, R/R); OF/INF Luke Swann (So., 5-11, 180, R/R); INF Ryan Key (So., 5-7, 140, R/R); RHP Jackson Knox (Jr., 6-1, 150, R/R); INF Pearson Strickland (Jr., 5-7, 130, R/R)

Top Newcomers: LHP Garrett Casey (Jr., 5-10, 175, L/L); 3B/RHP Colton Webb (Fr., 5-10, 175, R/R)

Season Outlook: Troup should be in the thick of the rugged Region 5-4A chase this spring. Six starters are back to lead the way, including ace pitcher Colby Williams (7-1, 0.61 ERA). Top prospect Ryan Bliss (.363 avg., 7 2B) and catcher Cooper Doughman return to lead the offense. A strong group of underclassmen will also contribute.



Cooper Doughman
Troup



Colby Williams
Troup

GILMER BOBCATS

Head Coach: Jeff Thurman

Assistant Coach (s): Eric Tedders, Todd Gibson

2017 Record: 12-19

Returning Starters: RHP/INF Will Barnes (Sr., 6-0, 175, R/R); RHP/INF McKinley Chadwick (Sr., 6-2, 170, R/R); OF Eric Turner (Sr., 6-1, 175, R/R); RHP/C Brooks Rosser (Sr., 6-2, 170, R/R); OF/RHP Austin Daman (Jr., 6-0, 170, R/R); RHP/SS Evan Frady (Jr., 5-10, 160, R/R); OF/C Hunter Bowyer (Jr., 5-10, 165, R/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP/INF Bradley Thomas (Sr., 6-0, 170, R/R); 1B Garrett Martin (Sr., 6-0, 210, R/R); INF Avery Bertolini (Jr., 5-11, 170, R/R); LHP/OF Rylan Cochran (Jr., 6-1, 165, L/L); RHP/INF Jonas Griggs (Jr., 6-1, 170, R/R); OF Sam Nicholson (Jr., 6-0, 165, R/R)

Top Newcomers: LHP/OF Tyler Wright (So., 6-0, 160, L/L)

Season Outlook: Look for Gilmer to be much better this spring. Seven starters return, including a solid senior class. Senior pitcher/infielder McKinley Chadwick and junior pitcher/outfielder Austin Daman return to lead the way.

HERITAGE-CATOOSA GENERALS

Head Coach: Eric Beagles

Assistant Coach (s):

Thomas Gray, Jake Ledbetter, Tanner Moore

2017 Record: 30-9

Returning Starters:

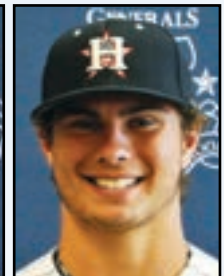
RHP/1B Cole Wilcox (Sr., 6-5, 230, R/R); INF/RHP Jonathan Hickman (Sr., 5-10, 175, R/R); OF Blake Bryan (Sr., 6-0, 165, R/R); CF/RHP/2B Luke Grant

(Sr., 5-10, 175, R/R); 1B/RHP Gracen Shook (Sr., 5-11, 215, L/R); OF Lance Dockery (Sr., 5-10, 160, R/R); C/OF/1B Josh Gibson (Sr., 5-9, 190, R/R); LHP/OF Justin Morris (Sr., 5-10, 160, L/L); C/3B/1B Bryce Bird (Sr., 6-0, 200, R/R); LHP/OF Tripp Church (Sr., 6-0, 175, L/L); 3B/RHP Dylan Keown (Jr., 5-11, 160, L/R); C/INF Alex Coulter (Sr., 5-11, 160, R/R); RHP/INF Nolan Letzgas (Jr., 6-0, 160, R/R); RHP Dakota Bandy (Jr., 6-0, 150, R/R); INF Brody Campbell (Jr., 6-0, 185, L/R); INF Walker Spruiell (Jr., 6-0, 165, R/R)

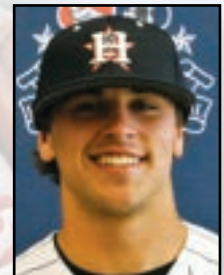
Season Outlook: This could be the best Heritage team in school history. The Generals return a wealth of talent after making the state semifinals last year. Ace pitcher Cole Wilcox returns, while infielder Jonathan Hickman (.368 avg., 41 RBIs) returns to lead the offense. The senior class is solid.



Lance Dockery
Heritage-Conyers



Luke Grant
Heritage-Conyers



Jonathan Hickman
Heritage-Conyers

REGION 6-4A

Region Favorite: Heritage-Catoosa

Players to Watch

RHP/1B – Hank Bearden, So., Northwest Whitfield

2B – Jack Brock, Sr., Northwest Whitfield

OF – Blake Bryan, Sr., Heritage-Catoosa

RHP/INF – McKinley Chadwick, Sr., Gilmer

C/INF – Alex Coulter, Sr., Heritage-Catoosa

OF/RHP – Austin Daman, Jr., Gilmer

OF – Lance Dockery, Sr., Heritage-Catoosa

1B – Jace Franklin, Sr., Pickens

C/OF/1B – Josh Gibson, Sr., Heritage-Catoosa

OF – Seth Godfrey, Sr., Northwest Whitfield

INF – Joseph Gossett, Sr., Pickens

CF/RHP/2B – Luke Grant, Sr., Heritage-Catoosa

SS – Riley Harrison, Jr., Ridgeland

INF/RHP – Jonathan Hickman, Sr., Heritage-Catoosa

SS/C – Tanner Hill, Sr., Ridgeland

INF/RHP – Dylan Huffman, Sr., Pickens

RHP – Ellis Johnson, Sr., Ridgeland

3B – Sebastian Orozco, Sr., Northwest Whitfield

RHP/1B – Cole Wilcox, Sr., Heritage-Catoosa

RHP/3B – Dylan Wooten, Sr., Ridgeland

LAFAYETTE RAMBLERS

Head Coach: Chris Base (new)

Survey not returned

NORTHWEST WHITFIELD BRUINS

Head Coach: Todd Middleon

Assistant Coach (s): Brad Dunn, David Redmond, Tony Crossen

2017 Record: 21-10

Returning Starters: OF Seth Godfrey (Sr., 5-8, 165, R/R); 3B Sebastian Orozco (Sr., 5-7, 190, R/R); 2B Jack Brock (Sr., 5-7, 160, R/R); RHP/1B

Hank Bearden (So., 6-0, 170, L/R); LHP/1B David Ramirez (Jr., 5-10, 185, R/L); SS Hayden Pack (So., 5-7, 150, R/R); RHP/1B Jake Bearden (Jr., 5-10, 170, L/R)

Other Returning Players: LHP/OF Andrew Ashe (Sr., 5-10, 150, L/L); RHP Jared Bradford (Sr., 6-3, 220, R/R); C Reed McClain (Jr., 5-11, 145, R/R)

Season Outlook: A strong nucleus of talent returns for Northwest Whitfield who should be one of the teams to beat in region play. The Bruins welcome back seven starters, including sophomore pitcher Hank Bearden, who was a second-team all-state selection last year. The senior class is small but will be expected to lead the way.



Hank Bearden
Northwest Whitfield

PICKENS DRAGONS

Head Coach: Adam Williams (new)

Assistant Coach (s): TBA

2017 Record: 18-12

Returning Starters: INF Joseph Gossett (Sr., 6-2, 160, R/R); 1B Jace Franklin (Sr., 6-2, 185, L/L); INF/RHP Dylan Huffman (Sr., 5-9, 170, R/R); 3B/RHP Caswell Smith (Jr., 6-1, 190, R/R); OF/LHP Will Lawrence (Jr., 6-0, 170, R/L); INF Isaiah Payne (Sr., 5-10, 170, R/R); LHP Clate McArthur (Sr., 5-9, 190, L/L)

Other Returning Players: INF Brady Moore (So., 5-10, 170, R/R); C Tyler Vreeland (So., 5-9, 160, R/R); LHP Noah Canada (Jr., 6-2, 210, L/L); RHP Evan Jones (Sr., 6-0, 160, R/R); RHP Lucas Headrick (Sr., 5-10, 165, R/R)

Season Outlook: Former Cass coach Adam Williams takes over and inherits a solid nucleus of players. Seven starters are back, including senior infielder Joseph Gossett. The senior class is solid, but look for some talented underclassmen to compete for playing time.

RIDGELAND PANTHERS

Head Coach: Scott Harden

Assistant Coach (s): Shawn Crawford, Kip Klein, Hunter Forest, Dusty Wright

2017 Record: 14-15

Returning Starters: RHP Ellis Johnson (Sr., 6-1, 175, R/R); CF Jalyn Shelton (Sr., 6-0, 210, L/L); RHP/3B Dylan Wooten (Sr., 5-11, 185, R/R); OF Shawn Wilson (Jr., 5-10, 170, R/R); C/RHP Tanner Hill (Jr., 6-2, 200, R/R); SS Riley Harrison (Jr., 6-0, 175, R/R); 2B Jacob Stephens (Sr., 5-10, 165, R/R); 3B Jordan Tucker (Sr., 6-1, 215, R/R)

Other Returning Players: 1B Tyler Crawford (Jr., 6-6, 235, L/R)

Season Outlook: The Panthers return eight starters and should contend for a postseason berth. Pitcher Dylan Wooten and shortstop Riley Harrison return, giving Ridgeland a solid nucleus to build around. Look for a solid group of juniors to contribute.

SOUTHEAST WHITFIELD RAIDERS

Head Coach: Brad Lofton

Survey not returned

REGION 7-4A

Region Favorite: Blessed Trinity

Players to Watch

SS – CJ Abrams, Jr., Blessed Trinity

INF – Charlie Benson, Sr., Marist

3B/RHP – Will Cantrell, Jr., Chestatee

OF – Ryan Davis, Jr., Blessed Trinity

RHP – Russell Dorvee, Sr., Blessed Trinity

RF/LHP – Reggie James, Sr., Chestatee

RHP/3B – Jeff Jenkins, Sr., West Hall

C/INF – Carter Lott, Sr., West Hall

C/RHP – Griffin McClure, Sr., Blessed Trinity

OF/RHP – Cameron Shirley, Sr., West Hall

3B/1B – Mickey Skole, Sr., Blessed Trinity

INF/RHP – Jake Smith, Jr., Blessed Trinity

INF – Ryan Sullivan, Sr., Marist

SS – Joe Sutton, Sr., Chestatee

OF/LHP – Carter Tally, Sr., Marist

INF/P – Patrick Taylor, Sr., Marist

RHP – Seb Thomas, Jr., Marist

2B/RHP – Cooper Wilson, Sr., Chestatee

BLESSED TRINITY TITANS

Head Coach: Andy Harlin

Assistant Coach (s):

Jamie Wagner, Brandon Harwell, Evan Tieleo

2017 Record: 36-6

Returning Starters: SS

CJ Abrams (Jr., 6-1, 175, L/R);

OF Ryan Davis (Jr., 5-10, 175,

R/R); INF/RHP Jake Smith

(Jr., 6-1, 205, R/R)

Other Returning

Players: 3B/1B Mickey

Skole (Sr., 6-1, 210, R/R); C/RHP Griffin McClure (Sr., 6-3, 185, R/R); RHP

Russell Dorvee (Sr., 6-3, 175, R/R); LHP Clark Dearman (Sr., 6-1, 190,



Ryan Davis
Blessed Trinity



Mickey Skole
Blessed Trinity



CJ Abrams - Blessed Trinity
Photo by Tim Morse



Jake Smith - Blessed Trinity
Photo by Tim Morse

L/L); RHP Sebastian Szot (Sr., 5-11, 175, R/R); INF Preston Kolesar (Sr., 6-1, 190, R/R); C Josh Voss (Sr., 6-0, 180, R/R)

Season Outlook: Blessed Trinity has some rebuilding to do after making the state championship series for the fourth straight year last season. The senior class is solid, but only three starters return. One of those is all-state performer CJ Abrams. Outfielder Ryan Davis and infielder/pitcher Jake Smith also return. The Titans should still make a deep playoff run.

CHESTATEE WAR EAGLES

Head Coach: Jon Brewer

Assistant Coach (s): Wesley Dunn, Daniel Szathmary, Luke Crumley

2017 Record: 13-19

Returning Starters: SS Joe Sutton (Sr., R/R); RHP Gavin Cunningham (Sr., R/R); RF/LHP Reggie James (Sr., R/L); C Micah Flanagan (Sr., R/R); 2B/RHP Cooper Wilson (Sr., R/R); 3B/RHP Chris Ray (Sr., R/R); 3B/RHP Will Cantrell (Jr., R/R); SS/RHP Cade Brady (Jr., R/R); DH Atticus Tomcho (Jr., R/R)

Other Returning Players: C/RHP Phillip Lemay (So., R/R); 2B/LF Caleb Carter (So., R/R); RF Storm Yarbrough (Sr., R/R); CF Ryan Irick (Sr., R/R)

Top Newcomers: CF/RHP Hunter Potzner (Fr., R/R); RF/RHP Evan Burgess (Fr., R/R)

Season Outlook: This could be potentially be the best team in Chestatee's history. The War Eagles have 12 returning seniors. Shortstop Joe Sutton returns to lead the offense, but Cooper Wilson and Will Cantrell also return to spark the offense. Pitcher Reggie James anchors a talented rotation.



Joe Sutton
Chestatee

MARIST WAR EAGLES

Head Coach: Mike Strickland

Assistant Coach (s):

Charlie Leibrandt, Corey Tibbs, Justin Rhodes

2017 Record: 25-17

Returning Starters:

INF/P Patrick Taylor (Sr.); INF Charlie Benson (Sr.); INF Ryan Sullivan (Sr.); OF/LHP Carter Tally (Sr.); RHP Seb Thomas (Jr.)

Other Returning

Players: OF/P Chase Abshier (Sr.); C James MacCallum (Jr.); OF Derius Hulbert (Sr.); OF/P Joseph McDermond (Sr.); P Matthew Pezolt (Sr.); P Gus Phelts (Sr.); INF/P Dean Colton (Jr.)

Top Newcomers: John Flor (Jr.); Ryan Mannelly (Jr.)

Season Outlook: Marist caught fire in the postseason and captured the state title last season. There are enough returners to make another strong run. Pitching should be solid as right-handers Seb Thomas and Patrick Taylor return. Meanwhile, Charlie Benson and Ryan Sullivan return to lead the offense.



Charlie Benson
Marist



Patrick Taylor
Marist



Seb Thomas- Marist
Photo by Tim Morse

WEST HALL SPARTANS

Head Coach: Chad Sage

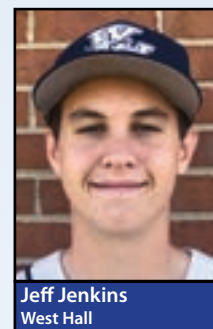
Assistant Coach (s): Brannon Humphries, Jeff Jenkins, Justin Hunt, Merrit Gazaway

2017 Record: 12-16

Returning Starters: RHP/3B Jeff Jenkins (Sr., 6-4, 210, R/R); C/INF Carter Lott (Sr., 5-11, 185, R/R); INF/RHP Dylan Simpson (Sr., 5-10, 180, R/R); INF/C Gabe Allison (Jr., 6-1, 185, R/R); OF/RHP Cameron Shirley (Sr., 5-11, 175, R/R); OF Cannan Koger (So., 5-10, 150, R/R)

Other Returning Players: 1B Peyton Randozzo (Sr., 5-10, 185, R/R); OF Kyle Quesenberry (Jr., 5-10, 160, R/R); RHP/U Jacob Turk (Sr., 5-11, 170, R/R)

Season Outlook: This could be the best team in coach Chad Sage's tenure at West Hall. The Spartans return six starters, including ace pitcher Jeff Jenkins. Catcher Carter Lott and outfielder Cameron Shirley return to spark the offense. Senior infielder/pitcher Dylan Simpson also returns.



Jeff Jenkins
West Hall

WHITE COUNTY WARRIORS

Head Coach: Jim Waites (new)

Survey not returned

REGION 8-4A

Region Favorite: Stephens County

Players to Watch

OF – Cole Beitzel, Sr., Stephens County

RHP/OF – Austin Branson, Sr., St. Pius X

INF/RHP – Logan Brown, Sr., Madison County

C – Will Cain, Sr., North Oconee

OF – Justin Cole, Sr., Jefferson

SS – Zac Corbin, Jr., Jefferson

RHP/1B – Lance Cummings, Sr., Oconee County

C/3B/RHP – Will David, Sr., St. Pius X

1B – Wesley Diamantis, Sr., St. Pius X

OF/LHP – Luke Dickens, Jr., Oconee County

RHP/1B – Jacob Epps, Sr., Oconee County

OF/LHP – Chris Lukas, Sr., Madison County

LHP – Holton McGaha, Sr., Madison County

RHP/1B – Kumar Rocker, Sr., North Oconee

OF – Kyle Sherrer, Jr., North Oconee

SS – Chandler Simpson, Jr., St. Pius X

RHP/3B – Dawson Sorrells, Jr., Stephens County

RHP – Davis Swenson, Sr., Stephens County

C – Lane Watkins, Jr., Jefferson

JEFFERSON DRAGONS

Head Coach: Tommy Knight

Assistant Coach (s): Andy Fowler, Bob Gurley, Jon Veldhuis, Shawn McNally, Jordan Perdue

2017 Record: 16-14

Returning Starters: RHP Brandon Trefren (Sr., 5-10, 200, R/R); LHP Logan Garner (Sr., 6-0, 230, L/L); LHP Patrick Hickox (Sr., 5-11, 150, L/L); C Lane Watkins (Jr., 6-1, 195, L/R); 1B Vinny Farley (Jr., 6-3, 180, R/R); 2B Billy Finch (Sr., 5-10, 160, R/R); SS Zac Corbin (Jr., 5-10, 170, B/R); OF Justin Cole (Sr., 5-11, 190, R/R); OF Sam Elegreet (Jr., 5-10, 175, R/R)

Other Returning Players: 3B Clayton Jones (Sr., 5-7, 170, R/R); 3B Hart Blackstock (Sr., 5-8, 160, R/R); C Brandon Clinton (Sr., 5-10, 195, R/R); OF Kade McNally (So., 5-9, 190, R/R); 1B Ryan Godfrey (Jr., 5-11, 230, L/R); RHP Will Wood (Sr., 5-9, 165, R/R)

Top Newcomers: OF Colby Clark (So., 5-9, 190, R/R); INF Trey McEver (So., 5-9, 155, R/R); C Mason Cooper (Fr., 5-8, 180, R/R)

Season Outlook: After a rebuilding season in 2017, look for Jefferson to challenge for the region crown as nine starters are back. Pitchers Brandon Trefren (7-1, 2.82 ERA) and Patrick Hickox (7-5, 2.68 ERA) return. Meanwhile, catcher Lane Watkins, outfielder Justin Cole and shortstop Zac Corbin return to lead the offense.

Lane Watkins
Jefferson**MADISON COUNTY RED RAIDERS**

Head Coach: Chad Gillespie

Assistant Coach (s): Jeff Davis, Jack May, Nathan Herndon, Casey Bates

2017 Record: 19-16

Returning Starters: LHP Holton McGaha (Sr., 6-2, 175, L/L); INF Grant Miller (Sr., 5-8, 140, R/R); INF Josh Cotton (Sr., 6-1, 170, L/L); OF/LHP Noah McFarlin (Jr., 5-11, 155, L/L); OF Colby Smith (So., 5-10, 160, R/R); C Mason McFarlin (Jr., 5-11, 155, R/R); C Jared Dobbs (Sr., 6-1, 170, R/R); OF Levi Thompson (Sr., 6-2, 175, R/R); INF/RHP Logan Brown (Sr., 6-1, 175, R/R); OF/LHP Chris Lukas (Sr., 6-1, 170, L/L)

Other Returning Players: INF Nate Porterfield (Sr., 5-10, 190, R/R); INF Joe Lukas (Jr., 6-2, 165, R/R); INF Tristen Turner (Jr., 5-10, 140, R/R); OF Jacob Bray (Jr., 5-8, 140, R/R); OF Jarred Bolton (Jr., 5-9, 160, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP Austin Baddeley (So., 5-7, 130, R/R); INF Adam Echols (So., 5-9, 190, R/R); RHP Garrett Dowell (So., 6-2, 160, R/R); RHP/C Will Whitehead (So., 5-10, 190, R/R)

Season Outlook: Madison County made a strong run in the playoffs last season and will look to duplicate that success. A total of 10 starters are back, including standout pitcher Holton McGaha. Infielder Logan Brown and outfielder Chris Lukas return to lead the offense. A strong junior class will contribute.

NORTH OCONEE TITANS

Head Coach: Jay Lasley

Assistant Coach (s): Tyler Pittman, Tom Dimitroff, Eric Bounds, Matthew Kelley, Tom Meade, Kevin Kostyk

2017 Record: 13-13

Returning Starters: RHP/1B Kumar Rocker (Sr., 6-5, 250, R/R); C Will Cain (Sr., 6-3, 210, R/R); LHP Brad Stephenson (Sr., 6-3, 205, R/L); INF Peyton Tillery (Sr., 5-8, 155, R/R); OF Kyle Sherrer (Jr., 6-0, 170, R/R); INF/RHP Rylan Laird (Jr., 5-11, 170, R/R); INF/RHP Tyler Hess (Jr., 5-8, 175, R/R); RHP/INF Will Pearson (So., 6-1, 145, R/R)

Other Returning Players: LHP Jacob Buffington (Sr., 6-4, 200, R/L); INF Garrett Paxson (Jr., 6-1, 200, R/R); RHP/1B Austin Odom (Jr., 5-11, 160, R/R); RHP Troy Harris (Jr., 5-11, 135, R/R); RHP/INF Nick McKenna (Jr., 5-9, 150, R/R); OF/INF Davis Johnson (Jr., 6-4, 210, R/R)

Top Newcomers: OF/LHP Dom Hughes (Jr., 5-9, 180, L/L); 1B/RHP

Andrew Henry (Jr., 6-7, 200, R/R); C Bennett Toci (So., 6-0, 180, R/R); RHP/1B Chandler White (So., 6-0, 200, R/R); RHP/OF Dylan Wilhelm (So., 6-2, 190, R/R); OF/C Giavonni Lombardo (So., 5-9, 170, L/R)

Season Outlook: North Oconee returns one of the nation's top pitching prospects in right-hander Kumar Rocker, but the Titans must find some more arms to step forward. Left-hander Brad Stephenson returns, while senior catcher Will Cain returns behind the plate. The roster is loaded with young talent that needs time to mature.

OCONEE COUNTY WARRIORS

Head Coach: Tom Gooch

Assistant Coach (s):

Jack Forrester, Blake Mooney, Will Lance, Cory Henry, Phillip Faulkner

2017 Record: 21-12

Returning Starters: OF Cam Conglose (Sr., 5-10, 180, L/L); OF/LHP Luke Dickens (Jr., 6-0, 160, L/L); 2B Kirtus Williford (Sr., 5-9, 150, R/R); 1B/RHP Lance Cummings (Sr., 6-5, 180, R/R)

Other Returning Players: C Brooks Blizzard (Jr., 5-10, 165, R/R); RHP/1B Jacob Epps (Sr., 6-0, 200, R/R); RHP/1B JT Roberts (Sr., 6-1, 170, R/R); RHP/INF William Haugabook (Sr., 6-0, 165, R/R); RHP Mark Wiggins (Sr., 5-11, 195, R/R); P/OF Jackson Manders (Jr.)

Top Newcomers: INF Tanner Schroer (Jr., L/L); INF Tucker Schroer (Jr., R/R)

Season Outlook: Oconee County has some holes to fill, but the Warriors will be in the postseason chase. Pitching will be the team's strength as Lance Cummings, Luke Dickens and Jacob Epps all return. Outfielder Cam Conglose returns to lead the offense.

Lance Cummings
Oconee CountyLuke Dickens
Oconee County**SAINT PIUS X GOLDEN LIONS**

Head Coach: Chad Garrison

Assistant Coach (s): Pat Wright, Andrew Mabini, Michael Lancaster, Gary Leiner, Bobby Tippet, Trey Broussard, Paul Standard III

2017 Record: 10-19

Returning Starters: OF Will Arnold (Sr., 5-11, 165, L/L); C/3B/RHP Will David (Sr., 6-0, 180, R/R); 1B Wesley Diamantis (Sr., 6-2, 220, L/L); 2B/OF Jackson Doyle (Sr., 5-11, 165, R/R); RHP/OF Adam Sitzmann (Sr., 6-0, 170, R/R); RHP/OF Austin Branson (Sr., 5-11, 180, R/R); SS Chandler Simpson (Jr., 5-10, 155, L/R); OF Jacob Pajer (So., 5-11, 170, R/R)

Other Returning Players: SS/2B Cole Einbender (Sr., 5-10, 155, R/R); 1B/LHP Justin Doychak (Jr., 6-2, 155, L/L); OF/RHP Zach Siebert (Jr., 6-0, 155, L/R); LHP Matthew Burdick (So., 5-11, 200, L/L); OF/RHP CJ Kachmar (So., 6-0, 185, R/R)

Season Outlook: St. Pius X will look to rebound from a frustrating 2017 season. Eight starters are back, including six seniors who will lead the way. The versatile Will David, first baseman Wesley Diamantis, shortstop Chandler Simpson, pitcher/outfielder Austin Branson and outfielder Jacob Pajer are a handful of players to keep an eye on.

STEPHENS COUNTY INDIANS

Head Coach: Greg McCall

Assistant Coach (s): Michael Thomas, Rocky Fulbright

2017 Record: 21-17

Returning Starters:

C Bryson Fowler (Sr., 5-9, 195, R/R); RHP/3B Dawson Sorrells (Jr., 6-1, 160, R/R); 1B Dawson Dean (Sr., 5-11, 175, L/L); 2B Kole Rogers (Sr., 6-0, 165, R/R); OF Cole Beitzel (Sr., 5-10, 215, R/R); RHP Chaz Bridges (Sr., 6-2, 185, R/R); RHP Davis Swenson (Jr., 6-2, 195, R/R)



Dawson Sorrells
Stephens County



Davis Swenson
Stephens County

Other Returning Players: OF Austin Page (Sr., 5-9, 145, R/R); LHP Gabe White (Jr., 6-2, 175, L/L); LHP/1B Zach Boyd (Sr., 5-9, 215, L/L); OF Griff Pruitt (Sr., 6-0, 175, R/R); OF Ben Hobbs (Jr., 5-8, 195, R/R); 2B Cole Snyder (So., 5-9, 150, R/R); SS Eli Wenger (So., 5-11, 160, R/R)

Season Outlook: Stephens County got hot late last season and made a run to the state quarterfinals. The Indians hope to build off that momentum this year. Seven starters are back, including pitchers Dawson Sorrells, Chaz Bridges and Davis Swenson. Catcher Bryson Fowler and infielders Dawson Dean and Kole Rogers return to lead the offense.

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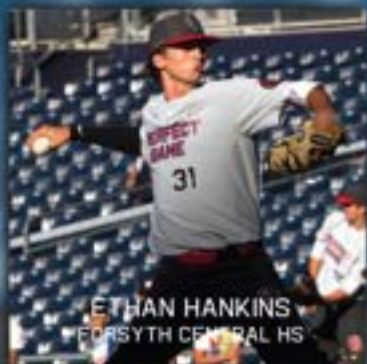
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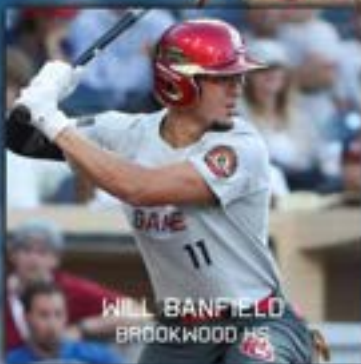




KUMAR ROCKER
NORTH OCONEE HS



ETHAN HANKINS
FORSYTH CENTRAL HS



WILL BANFIELD
BROOKWOOD HS



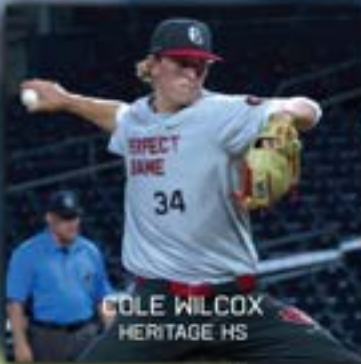
CABERA WEAVER
SOUTH GWINNETT HS



ANTHONY SEIGLER
CARTERSVILLE HS



KENDALL SIMMONS
TATTNALL SQUARE ACADEMY



COLE WILCOX
HERITAGE HS



PARKER MEADOWS
GRAYSON HS



LUKE BARTNICKI
WALTON HS

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Metro Atlanta BIG 10



Name: Will Banfield
School: Brookwood
Position: Catcher
Height/Weight: 6-1/210

- Q:** What in-game rituals or superstitions do you have?
- A:** I have to wear the same sliding shorts (washed of course) for each game when we are on a winning streak.
- Q:** Name one thing people may be surprised to learn about you.
- A:** People may be surprised to find out that I really do not like wearing baseball hats.
- Q:** Who has been the most influential person in your life and why?
- A:** My mom has been the most influential in my life because she has always been by my side to give advice and help me though everything I have been through.



Name: Luke Bartnicki
School: Walton
Position: Pitcher
Height/Weight: 6-3/200

- Q:** Outside of baseball, what is your next hobby?
- A:** I am a competitive swimmer. I teach swim lessons and lifeguard during summers.
- Q:** Who has been the most influential person in your life and why?
- A:** Zac Kristofak, a former high school teammate, helped me a lot with my pitching. He has had some tough times in his life, but he has always risen above.
- Q:** Name one thing people may be surprised to learn about you?
- A:** I was adopted as a newborn baby.



Name: Jarrett Ford
School: Decatur
Position: Shortstop
Height/Weight: 5-9/175

- Q:** What in-game rituals or superstitions do you have?
- A:** I always have a hand shake with the other middle infielder I am playing with. And I have a chain that I have played with for almost three years now.
- Q:** Name one thing people may be surprised to learn about you?
- A:** I used to read about a book a day.
- Q:** After baseball, what career are you planning to pursue?
- A:** After baseball, I will pursue a career in real estate. I've always wanted to be a commercial real estate. So I'll do definitely do that.



Name: Parker Meadows
School: Grayson
Position: Outfielder/
Pitcher
Height/Weight: 6-4/190

- Q:** What is your favorite food to eat?
- A:** I'm definitely a steak and potatoes guy ... and I dip everything in Ranch dressing.
- Q:** After baseball, what career are you planning to pursue?
- A:** I think I'd love to use my knowledge of baseball and teach younger kids, so being a coach would be something I'd like to pursue so I can stay in the game.
- Q:** Outside of baseball, what is your next hobby?
- A:** Fishing - My grandparents have a lakehouse at Lake Sinclair. My brother, cousins and I have grown up on the water.



Name: Anthony Seigler
School: Cartersville
Position: Pitcher/
Infielder
Height/Weight: 5-11/190

- Q:** After baseball, what career are you planning to pursue?
- A:** After baseball, I plan to pursue a career on MLB Network.
- Q:** Name one thing people may be surprised to learn about you?
- A:** I am not sure which hand is my dominant side.
- Q:** What is your favorite food to eat?
- A:** Spaghetti with garlic bread is my favorite thing to eat.



WHERE PROSPECTS PLAY



Metro Atlanta BIG 10



Name: Kelvin Smith
School: Redan
Position: Pitcher/Infielder
Height/Weight: 6-1/190

- Q:** What in-game rituals or superstitions do you have?
- A:** As I walk into the batter's box, I take my hand and touch my helmet and cross my chest thanking God for the opportunity to play this game.
- Q:** Outside of baseball, what is your next hobby?
- A:** My hobby outside of baseball is shopping.
- Q:** If you could travel anywhere outside the U.S., what would be your dream location and why?
- A:** I would love to stay in the Dominican Republic. There are beaches, the weather is great and the country loves baseball.



Name: Nick Swanson
School: Mount Paran
Chrisitan
Position: First Baseman/
Pitcher
Height/Weight: 6-2/205

- Q:** Name one thing people may be surprised to learn about you?
- A:** I have collected baseball memorabilia since I was six years old.
- Q:** Name the person you'd like to meet the most and why?
- A:** Derek Jeter because he was one of the best baseball players to ever play and set a good example by giving his all every game.
- Q:** What in-game rituals or superstitions do you have?
- A:** I always jump over the foul line going on and off the field. When I pitch, I say a short prayer behind the mound after I throw my warm-up pitches.



Name: Devin Warner
School: Cartersville
Position: Shortstop
Height/Weight: 6-3/205

- Q:** What in-game rituals or superstitions do you have?
- A:** Our team manager gives us three pieces of gum. I take the first piece and put it in my mouth, then I put one in my pocket. I throw the other piece in the trash.
- Q:** Name one thing people may be surprised to learn about you?
- A:** I like old-school country music.
- Q:** Who has been the most influential person in your life and why?
- A:** Coach (Will) Startup because he has helped me in my walk with Christ.



Name: Cabela Weaver
School: South Gwinnett
Position: Outfielder
Height/Weight: 6-3/180

- Q:** What is your favorite food to eat?
- A:** Chick-fil-A sandwich.
- Q:** If you could travel anywhere outside the U.S., what would be your dream location and why?
- A:** Bora Bora, because the water is clear and it's so beautiful there. I would live there if I was a millionaire.
- Q:** Who has been the most influential person in your life and why?
- A:** My mother and father because both of them struggled to get to where they are, but they put in hard work and endless hours to have their success.



Name: Chris Williams
School: River Ridge
Position: Outfielder/
Pitcher
Height/Weight: 6-1/195

- Q:** What in-game rituals or superstitions do you have?
- A:** I always say a prayer during the national anthem.
- Q:** After baseball, what career are you planning to pursue?
- A:** I'd like to be a sports agent.
- Q:** Who has been the most influential person in your life and why?
- A:** My mom, she is just my everything. She does everything and anything for me. I would do the same for her.





North Georgia BIG 10



Name: Ryan Bliss
School: Troup
Position: Shortstop
Height/Weight: 5-9/160

Q: Name the person you'd like to meet the most and why?
A: Derek Jeter -- I would love to pick his brain on how to become a professional baseball player.
Q: Who has been the most influential person in your life and why?
A: My father -- He has always been there for me and supported me through everything.
Q: Name one thing people may be surprised to learn about you?
A: I love country music.



Name: Ethan Hankins
School: Forsyth Central
Position: Pitcher
Height/Weight: 6-6/200

Q: After baseball, what career are you planning to pursue?
A: I would like to be a coach. I love doing lessons with kids.
Q: Name the person you'd like to meet the most and why?
A: Greg Maddux, because I've always wanted to talk pitching with him.
Q: If you could travel anywhere outside the U.S., what would be your dream location and why?
A: Bora Bora, because I love the beach and fishing.



Name: Kole Holder
School: Rockmart
Position: Outfielder/
Pitcher
Height/Weight: 6-1/180

Q: Name one thing people may be surprised to learn about you.
A: When I was four years old, I cut my middle finger on my throwing hand completely off. Thankfully, doctors were able to fix it.
Q: Who has been the most influential person in your life and why?
A: My brother. He sacrifices his life every day in Afghanistan and he truly means the world to me.
Q: After baseball, what career are you planning to pursue?
A: I want to go for a business degree and pursue my career as an entrepreneur.



Name: Kumar Rocker
School: North Oconee
Position: Pitcher/
First Baseman
Height/Weight: 6-5/250

Q: What in-game rituals or superstitions do you have?
A: Always make sure my laces are tucked.
Q: Name one thing people may be surprised to learn about you.
A: I am African-American and East Indian (India).
Q: Who has been the most influential person in your life and why?
A: My parents have been the most influential in my life. My dad has taught me to be mentally tough, how to carry myself and always give 100 percent. My mom has pushed the importance of education on me and drove me to every game, practice and lessons since I was seven years old.



Name: Palmer Sapp
School: Dawson County
Position: Shortstop
Height/Weight: 5-10/165

Q: What in-game rituals or superstitions do you have?
A: Growing up watching the baseball players that came through my dad's program, I looked up to some of those guys like brothers. In 2010, the program lost a teammate in a tragic accident. Since that day, I've worn No. 3 in honor of him. Every time I put the jersey on, I think about him, and how he played the game. I also wear a red arm band with a gold No. 3 to honor his memory. I haven't played a game without it since.
Q: Name one thing people may be surprised to learn about you?
A: I don't like French Fries.
Q: What is your favorite food to eat? **A:** Yogurt.



WHERE PROSPECTS PLAY



North Georgia BIG 10



Name: Will Shirah
School: Fanin County
Position: Pitcher/
Outfielder
Height/Weight: 6-2/190

Q: What is your favorite food to eat?
A: Filet Mignon & Hamburgers
Q: Name one thing people may be surprised to learn about you.
A: People may be surprised to learn that I am ranked #1 scholastically in my high school class.
Q: Who has been the most influential person in your life and why?
A: My parents are the most influential people in my life because they have raised me to be a strong, Christian young man with an amazing work ethic.



Name: Austin Thompson
School: Gordon Lee
Position: Outfielder/Pitcher
Height/Weight: 6-2/175

Q: What is your favorite food to eat?
A: My all-time favorite thing to eat is sweet and spicy wings from Buffalo Wild Wings.
Q: Name one thing people may be surprised to learn about you?
A: I am scared of clowns.
Q: Who has been the most influential person in your life and why?
A: My dad has always been the most influential person in my life. He loves the game of baseball as much as I do and he always pushes me to do my best on and off the field. After all the years of taking me back and forth to tournaments every weekend to now trying to get me in front of college coaches, my dad has definitely been a huge person in my life.



Name: JP Tighe
School: Dalton
Position: Catcher
Height/Weight: 6-2/190

Q: Name one thing people may be surprised to learn about you.
A: I was born without a sense of smell.
Q: Who has been the most influential person in your life and why?
A: My parents - they have taught me so much about life with their many life lessons and experiences.
Q: If you could travel anywhere outside the U.S., what would be your dream location and why?
A: Dominican Republic -- To play baseball with all the kids there and to see their culture.



Name: Cole Wilcox
School: Heritage-Catoosa
Position: Pitcher/
First Baseman
Height/Weight: 6-5/230

Q: If you could travel anywhere outside the U.S., what would be your dream location and why?
A: Grand Cayman Island, smaller island where I can snorkel, fish and just relax.
Q: Name one thing people may be surprised to learn about you.
A: I'm really good with numbers. I love solving number problems.
Q: After baseball, what career are you planning to pursue?
A: Forensic Accounting.



Name: Bay Witcher
School: Loganville
Position: Pitcher
Height/Weight: 6-4/220

Q: Name the person you'd like to meet the most and why.
A: Pitcher Corey Kluber -- We have the same delivery and I would love to learn that slider.
Q: If you could travel anywhere outside the U.S., what would be your dream location and why.
A: Italy -- It's a really romantic place and I'm a romantic kind of guy.
Q: What is your favorite food to eat?
A: Pizza with a lot of meat, a lot of cheese and a lot of pineapple.





South Georgia BIG 10



Name: Gavin Bloodworth
School: First Presbyterian Day
Position: Pitcher/
Third Baseman
Height/Weight: 6-3/230

Q: What in-game rituals or superstitions do you have?
A: I never step on a foul line on game day.
Q: Name one thing people may be surprised to learn about you?
A: I like to play ping pong.
Q: Name the person you'd like to meet the most and why?
A: Hanley Ramirez, because he's my favorite baseball player.



Name: Will Bowdoin
School: Glynn Academy
Position: Pitcher/
Shortstop
Height/Weight: 5-8/165

Q: What in-game rituals or superstitions do you have?
A: I draw a cross before I hit or take the mound. (Phil. 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.)
Q: Who is your favorite teacher and what is your favorite high school subject?
A: Currently, Mr. Landinguin who teaches my AP Macroeconomics class (favorite subject). My all-time favorite teacher is Mrs. Lori Todd, who taught me AP Biology.
Q: If you could travel anywhere outside the U.S., what would be your dream location and why?
A: Cancun, Mexico for the beach and girls.



Name: Hunter Goodwin
School: Worth County
Position: Pitcher/
Catcher
Height/Weight: 6-5/225

Q: Who has been the most influential person in your life and why?
A: My travel ball coach Derrick Simon. I have played for him since I was eight years old and he has taught me a lot of things on and off the field.
Q: Outside of baseball, what is your next hobby?
A: Hunting and fishing.
Q: Name one thing people may be surprised to learn about you.
A: I didn't start pitching until I was 13.



Name: Jack Gowen
School: Charlton County
Position: Pitcher/
First Baseman
Height/Weight: 6-1/210

Q: What in-game rituals or superstitions do you have?
A: Before every game, I must deep-stretch and long toss. I wear the same pair of neon green sliders every time I pitch, and I do a few band pulls before every inning.
Q: Name one thing people may be surprised to learn about you.
A: I am the second youngest of seven brothers and sisters -- Drew, Calle, Will, Bo, Beau, Jake and Jesse.
Q: Name the person you'd like to meet the most and why.
A: I would love to meet Anthony Rizzo or Inky Johnson. They both suffered huge struggles, but still chased and accomplished their dreams despite all the severe adversity that they were challenged with. I think they are both very motivating.



Name: David Hollie
School: Cross Creek
Position: Outfielder/
Pitcher
Height/Weight: 6-3/210

Q: What is your favorite food to eat?
A: Crab legs are my favorite thing to eat.
Q: If you could travel anywhere outside the U.S., what would be your dream location and why?
A: Australia, because they have new and unique things I've never seen before.
Q: After baseball, what career are you planning to pursue?
A: I would like to become an FBI agent. It's another dream that I have.



WHERE PROSPECTS PLAY



South Georgia BIG 10



Name: Michael Menhart
School: Richmond Hill
Position: Pitcher
Height/Weight: 6-0/170

- Q:** Name one thing people may be surprised to learn about you.
- A:** I can wiggle my ears and touch my nose with my tongue.
- Q:** What in-game rituals or superstitions do you have?
- A:** I eat sunflower seeds between each inning, and I never wear sleeves when pitching.
- Q:** Name the person you'd like to meet the most and why?
- A:** The person I would like to meet is Jimmy Fallon because I watch his show every night and he's really funny.



Name: Gavin Patel
School: Colquitt County
Position: Shortstop/
Pitcher
Height/Weight: 6-0/165

- Q:** Name one thing people may be surprised to learn about you.
- A:** Usually when I meet new people, they are surprised that I have a southern accent, even though I'm from South Georgia, because of my race. I think it's funny when that happens.
- Q:** Outside of baseball, what is your next hobby?
- A:** Hunting and fishing.
- Q:** What in-game rituals or superstitions do you have?
- A:** I don't have any in-game rituals but sometimes I am superstitious. Every morning before a game, a few of us go eat breakfast and when we win, we eat at the same place before every game until we lose. Usually, we'll even get the same coach to throw pre-game batting practice as long as we're winning.



Name: Carter Raffield
School: Bleckley County
Position: Pitcher/
First Baseman
Height/Weight: 6-4/215

- Q:** Outside of baseball, what is your next hobby?
- A:** Playing golf, fishing and hunting.
- Q:** If you could travel anywhere outside the U.S., what would be your dream location and why?
- A:** Europe, it would be great to visit the cities and experience the culture.
- Q:** Name the person you'd like to meet the most and why.
- A:** Jacob DeGrom, he is my favorite pitcher and it would be a great learning experience to discuss his pitching strategy against the best hitters in the game.



Name: Kendall Logan
Simmons
School: Tattnall Square
Position: Shortstop/
Third Baseman/
Pitcher
Height/Weight: 6-2/195

- Q:** Who has been the most influential person in your life and why?
- A:** My mom, because she works so hard for our family by making sure that we have everything that we need. She focuses on character and faith and pushes me to be the best person that I can be. She is also a fighter and teaches us to let adversity be our strength and to never give up. She always says "what doesn't kill you will only make you stronger."
- Q:** Name one thing people may be surprised to learn about you.
- A:** I love Country music.
- Q:** After baseball, what career are you planning to pursue?
- A:** I plan on majoring in business at Georgia Tech and hopefully use that degree to do something in the sports industry.



Name: Ford Townsend
School: Wayne County
Position: Pitcher/
First Baseman
Height/Weight: 6-0/220

- Q:** Outside of baseball, what is your next hobby?
- A:** I am an avid coon and squirrel hunter and spend many of my days and nights in the swamps of South Georgia.
- Q:** Name the person you'd like to meet the most and why?
- A:** I would like to meet Babe Ruth because he is my all-time favorite player.
- Q:** Who has been the most influential person in your life and why?
- A:** My father has been the most influential person because he has set a good example of what it is like to work hard and prosper. He has always provided opportunities for me to improve and develop life and baseball skills.





#1

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MINNESOTA TWINS

#2

HUNTER GREENE
CINCINNATI REDS

#3

MACKENZIE GORE
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Leaving No Doubt

North Hall wins first state championship

By Tim Morse

Trent Mongero didn't have to say much when his North Hall baseball team came together for offseason workouts.

After falling to eventual state champion Locust Grove in the final inning of Game 3 of the quarterfinals of the 2016 playoffs, North Hall players were determined to get back.

And they expected to win.

"That loss propelled us into the offseason," Mongero said. "The offseason went like it always did, but the intensity was up a notch."

North Hall's ride to the Georgia High School Association Class 3A state title was a bit bumpy at times, but the preseason favorite Trojans stayed on course and captured their first baseball championship in the 60-year history of the school.

The Trojans (30-11), who needed three games to oust Pace Academy in the first round, got hot and swept Southeast Bulloch, Ringgold, Calhoun and Pierce County in the state playoffs.

But North Hall players were still a little upset about the way the 2016 season ended when the Trojans lost at Locust Grove. They took their disappointment into the offseason.

"We just felt like we were better than the sweet 16," pitcher Reese Olson said. "No disrespect to Locust Grove because they were very good, we just felt like we let things slip away."

Mongero noticed the focus of his players. His coaching staff had T-shirts printed that read, "Leave No Doubt." He wanted his players' best whether it was on the field, at school or in the weightroom. The Trojans, who last played for the state championship in 2013, wanted there to be no questions when the 2017 season rolled around.

"The rising seniors, we kind of had a little attitude," said infielder Taber Mongero, who graduated. "We wanted to leave no doubt that we could be the state champions."

Trent Mongero believed the Trojans could build off the 2016 season. And if they could develop a few more missing parts, North Hall would be tough. One of the areas of concern was on the mound.

Olson had shown promise as a sophomore in 2016 and Mongero believed he could be the team's No. 1 starter. Then Corbin Meeler returned and Mongero believed Olson and Meeler could be the team's 1-2 punch.

The team also had Taber Mongero, Caleb Clark, Jackson Latty, Dylan Lavender, and Austin Adams.

"Our pitching philosophy was to not issue any free passes and throw a complete game in 75 pitches or less," Trent Mongero said. "We worked on defense. We worked on that all summer and in the fall in our 2-on-1 workouts."

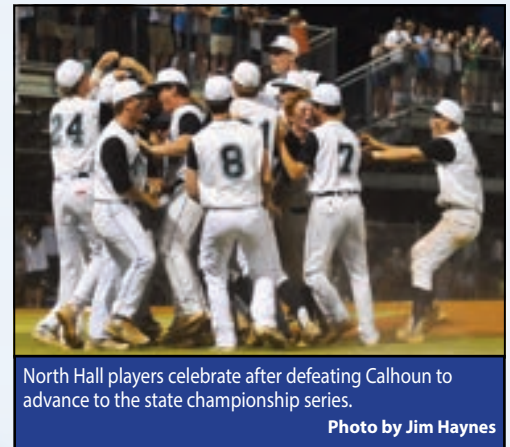
The Trojans began the season 5-3, then won 15 of their next 17 and took over the top spot in the Region 7-3A standings. But things seemed to unravel when the Trojans lost the final game of their three-game set with East Hall, then lost three in a row to Greater Atlanta Christian. Two of the three losses came in the last inning on walk-off victories by GAC.

They closed the season by winning just one game in a three-game set against rival Dawson County and limped into the state playoffs as the region's No. 3 seed. Taber Mongero said he's sure some players began to doubt. However, the coaching staff still believed their Trojans could have a special 2017 season.

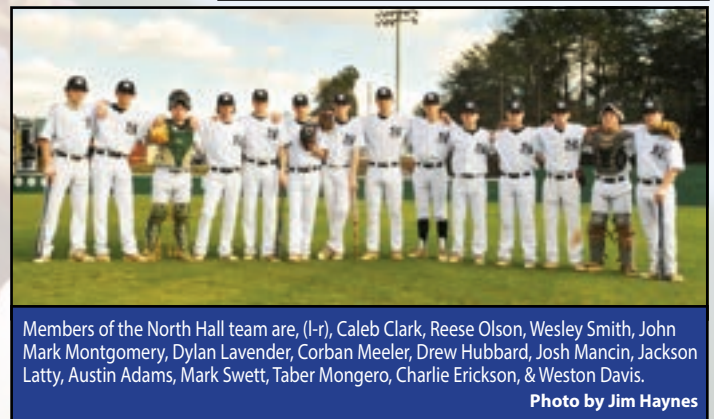
Trent Mongero told his team on the bus after the final loss of the regular season at Dawson that he believed they would write an amazing story



Pitcher Corban Meeler reacts after recording an out against Calhoun in the state semifinals. Photo by Jim Haynes



North Hall players celebrate after defeating Calhoun to advance to the state championship series. Photo by Jim Haynes



Members of the North Hall team are, (l-r), Caleb Clark, Reese Olson, Wesley Smith, John Mark Montgomery, Dylan Lavender, Corban Meeler, Drew Hubbard, Josh Mancin, Jackson Latty, Austin Adams, Mark Swett, Taber Mongero, Charlie Erickson, & Weston Davis. Photo by Jim Haynes

by making a deep run in the state playoffs.

The Trojans lost the first game of the best-of-three first round series at Pace Academy before rallying to win two more to advance, igniting a 10-game postseason winning streak enroute to the state title.

"Going three games in the first round was important because it helped us deal with adversity," Taber Mongero told the Gainesville Times. "In any playoff run, there's going to be adversity, and you've got to handle it."

Trent Mongero said the adversity brought the team closer and the trials helped them learn a valuable lesson.

North Hall played every series, with the exception of the semifinals against Calhoun, on the road. Trent Mongero believed the regular season and first-round adversity prepared his team for the state championship series against Pierce County.

North Hall won the first game, 9-2, then in Game 2, Pierce had the tying run on second base when Meeler got a pop fly to left field that Drew Hubbard snagged for the final out to preserve a 6-5 victory and left no doubt that North Hall was the state champions.

Class 3A Top 15



REDAN

On paper, there doesn't seem to be any weaknesses on the 2018 version of the Redan High School baseball team. The defending Region 5-3A champions were cruising last year until they were ambushed by Coahulla Creek in the quarterfinals of the state playoffs. But most of that talent is back for another season and a year older.

Just about every starter can pitch and the Raiders have enough experience returning on the hill to make life miserable for their opponents. Right-handers Taj Bradley, Hunter Todd, Kelvin Smith, Jr., Chayce Bryant and Kameron Marshall all return.

The versatile athletes can dominate on the pitcher's mound, then they are just as dangerous with a bat in their hands. Catcher/outfielder Orlando Adams, infielder/outfielder Lyndon Weaver and outfielder Ja'Shaun Franks are tough guys to get out. If Redan doesn't beat itself, this team could be hoisting the school's second state championship trophy this decade.



RINGGOLD

This will be Ringgold's best team since the Tigers played for the state championship in 2012. And the good news for Tiger fans is they still may be a year away. This spring could be a special season as seven starters are back, including all-state pitchers Holden Tucker and Nathan Camp. Offensive catalysts Andre Tarver, Ty Jones and Gavin Hollis return to lead what should be an explosive offense.



CALHOUN

The Yellow Jackets got hot late last season and made a run to the state semifinals. Calhoun will build from last year's run and be right back in the chase. This should be their best team since they finished as the Class 2A runner-up in 2010. Pitching will be the biggest strength behind left-handers Brett Potts and Davis Allen. The Jackets are going to be tough to beat with those two in control.



PIERCE COUNTY

After finishing as the Class 3A state runner-up last season, Pierce County is anxious to get back. The Bears will be tough again, especially with pitchers Cody Williams and Klay Allen returning. Ben Tuten and Walker Sinclair lead a young but talented offense. The senior class is strong and expect Pierce County to pick up from where they left off last year.



LOVETT

As usual, Lovett made a solid run in the playoffs last year before falling in the state quarterfinals. This spring won't be any different. Look for the Lions to contend for the Region 5-3A crown with a senior-oriented team. Pitchers Ben O'Meara, Wyatt Nelson and Dhruv Patel lead what should be a strong pitching rotation, while all-state performers Drayton Foster and Evan McKown will lead an offense that will be tough.



GREATER ATLANTA CHRISTIAN

The Spartans won 25 games and made the third round of the state playoffs last season. Greater Atlanta Christian will once again be among the state's elite. The Spartans will need to find a couple of more arms to go along with senior Sam Johnson, but the offense will be explosive as Johnson, Carson Taylor and Shane Lussier return.



APPLING COUNTY

After a rebuilding season last spring, Appling County returns with a lineup capable of making a deep postseason run. Even in a rebuilding season, the Pirates won 19 games and took Ringgold to a decisive third game before falling in the second round last year. The senior class is talented, and the Pirates won't beat themselves. A senior-oriented pitching staff will lead the way.



PACE ACADEMY

The Knights were the only team to take eventual Class 3A state champion North Hall to three games in the state playoffs last year. Despite a first-round playoff exit, Pace Academy is optimistic this spring could be special. The Knights return a trio of all-state players in Jaden Steagall, Zeke Diamond and Andrew Jenkins. This team could be tough.



WESTMINSTER

After winning a state title in 2016, Westminster did a little rebuilding last season. The Wildcats played a lot of players, still won 17 games and made the state playoffs. Westminster will be back this spring. Offensive catalyst Ryan Miller is back, while the pitching staff of Luke Jannetta, Jonathan Morgan, Junta Yasuda and Jack Polhemus will be dangerous.



FANNIN COUNTY

The Rebels won't be sneaking up on anybody this season with eight starters back and a lethal pitching rotation that consists of left-hander Will Shirah and right-handers Chandler Kendall, Garrett Rogers, Tyler Norton and Grant Baker. If Fannin can perform consistently on offense, the Rebels could have a special season in Blue Ridge.



NORTH HALL

Graduation took a bite out of the defending Class 3A state champs' roster. Just four starters are back, but a lot of players along the state championship journey got to play. The Trojans hope the experience will pay off. North Hall does return the Georgia Dugout Preview Magazine co-Player of the Year in pitcher Reese Olson.



DAWSON COUNTY

The Tigers continued to make positive strides last spring, finishing second in Region 7-3A before falling to Lovett in three games in the first round of the state playoffs. Dawson has some holes to fill this spring and must find some pitchers. The offense is in good hands with the return of Palmer Sapp, Connor Bearden, Hudson Sapp and Nate Sorrells.



MORGAN COUNTY

The Bulldogs captured the Region 8-3A title last year with a relatively young team. Just about all of that team returns and Morgan County players are hungry for more. While the senior class is talented, keep an eye on all-state performers Ethan Stamps, Hunter Lane and Jaron Ferguson. The Bulldogs may still be a year away.



COAHULLA CREEK

The Colts had their most successful run in school history when they made the state semifinals last year. A chunk of that talent graduated, but there are enough leftovers for Coahulla Creek to build off last season's momentum. Pitchers Eli Turso and Grant Ogle will lead a relatively young team anxious to prove it can play with the state's best on an annual basis.



PIKE COUNTY

The Pirates won 25 games last year and have a senior-oriented team capable of making a strong run. Seven starters, all of them seniors, return. Pike County has the pitching to not only contend in Region 4-3A, but they also have enough veteran leadership to make a statement in the postseason.

Others to watch: (Alphabetical Order) Cook, Franklin County, Hart County, Jackson, North Murray, Worth County

CLASS 3A PRESEASON ALL STATE

First Team

Name	Position	Grade	School	Comment
Davis Allen	Pitcher	Junior	Calhoun	Versatile athlete is legit
Reese Olson	Pitcher	Senior	North Hall	Won 13 games last year
Brett Potts	Pitcher	Senior	Calhoun	Makes opponents look bad
Will Shirah	Pitcher	Senior	Fannin County	LHP can take over
Holden Tucker	Pitcher	Junior	Ringgold	Lefty is just going to get better
Eli Turso	Pitcher	Junior	Coahulla Creek	RHP is tough to beat
Cody Williams	Pitcher	Senior	Pierce County	Guy is nearly impossible to beat
Orlando Adams	Catcher	Senior	Redan	Can play just about anywhere
Drayton Foster	Catcher	Senior	Lovett	Excellent behind the plate
Klay Allen	Infielder	Senior	Pierce County	Allen is the real deal
Zeke Diamond	Infielder	Senior	Pace Academy	Catalyst makes things happen
Palmer Sapp	Infielder	Senior	Dawson County	Can hit for contact or power
Kelvin Smith, Jr.	Infielder	Senior	Redan	Just a pure athlete
Carson Taylor	Infielder	Senior	GAC	Tough guy to get out
Hunter Todd	Infielder	Senior	Redan	Solid player who can also pitch
Taj Bradley	Outfielder	Senior	Redan	This guy can go
Jaron Ferguson	Outfielder	Junior	Morgan County	Offensive spark plug
Ryan Miller	Outfielder	Senior	Westminster	Miller is a pure hitter
Kole Newman	Outfielder	Senior	Islands	Quietly puts up big numbers
Andre Tarver	Outfielder	Junior	Ringgold	An exciting player to watch
Chayce Bryant	Designated Hitter	Senior	Redan	Makes things happen
Sam Johnson	Utility	Senior	GAC	Provides spark wherever he's at

Second Team

Pitchers – Jason Ammons, Sr., Appling County; Nathan Camp, Sr., Ringgold; Luke Jannetta, Jr., Westminster; Chandler Kendall, Jr., Fannin County; Hunter Lane, Jr., Morgan County; Ben O'Meara, Sr., Lovett; Blake Wehunt, Jr., Franklin County; **Catchers** – Hunter Goodwin, Sr., Worth County; Sam Thompson, Sr., Bremen; **Infielders** – Sam Bennett, Sr., Cook; Andrew Jenkins, Jr., Pace Academy; Shane Lussier, Jr., Greater Atlanta Christian; Ethan Stamps, So., Morgan County; Jaden Steagall, Sr., Pace Academy; Reece Whitworth, Sr., Hart County; **Outfielders** – Ty Jones, Sr., Ringgold; Kameron Marshall, Sr., Redan; Evan McKown, Sr., Lovett; Andrew Moore, Sr., Jackson; Hudson Sapp, So., Dawson County; **Designated Hitter** – Ben Tuten, Sr., Pierce County; **Utility** – Jalen Wilcox, Sr., Cook

REGION 1-3A

Region Favorite: Cook

Players to Watch

SS – Sam Bennett, Sr., Cook
SS – DJ Edwards, Sr., Worth County
LHP – Cole Elliott, Sr., Cook
RHP/U – Gabe Goff, Jr., Worth County
C/RHP – Hunter Goodwin, Sr., Worth County
RHP – Billy Jones, Sr., Crisp County
3B – Will Lanneau, Sr., Crisp County
2B – KJ Manning, So., Cook
SS – Myles Napier, Sr., Crisp County
INF/RHP – Jeremiah Reddell, So., Worth County
C – Cole Rogers, Sr., Cook
1B – Tyler Weeks, Sr., Cook
RHP/DH – Jalen Wilcox, Sr., Cook

COOK HORNETS

Head Coach: Greg Williams

Assistant Coach (s):

Zack Folsom, Mike Sneed, Boone Webster

2017 Record: 22-10

Returning Starters:

RHP Jalen Wilcox (Sr., 6-3, 260, R/R); SS Sam Bennett (Sr., 5-10, 160, R/R); C Cole Rogers (Sr., 6-0, 190, R/R); LHP Cole Elliott (Sr., 6-1, 150, L/L); RHP Tyler Weeks (Sr., 6-2, 180, R/R); 2B K.J. Manning (So., 5-8, 140, L/R)

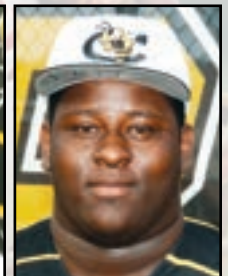
Other Returning Players: LHP Brett Haines (Sr., 6-0, 190, L/L); OF Brock Revels (Jr., 5-11, 175, R/R); RHP Dylan Turner (Jr., 5-10, 150, R/R); LHP Hart Griffin (So., 5-10, 165, L/L); 1B Bradyn Barnes (So., 6-1, 140, R/R); C Jake Dobson (So., 5-9, 140, R/R)

Top Newcomers: LHP Salem Brannon (Fr., 5-9, 140, L/L); 2B Drew Starling (Fr., 5-8, 150, R/R)

Season Outlook: Look for Cook to challenge for the region title as six starters, five of them seniors, return. Shortstop Sam Bennett (.390 avg.), catcher Cole Rogers and second baseman K.J. Manning return



Sam Bennett
Cook



Jalen Wilcox
Cook

to lead the offense. The pitching staff is senior-oriented as Jalen Wilcox, Cole Elliott and Tyler Weeks return.

CRISP COUNTY COUGARS

Head Coach: Bill Pate

Assistant Coach (s): David Lamberth, Scott Williams, Scooter Houston

2017 Record: 13-20

Returning Starters: SS/LHP Myles Napier (Sr., 6-0, 180, R/L); 3B/RHP Will Lanneau (Sr., 5-10, 175, R/R); OF/RHP Billy Jones (Sr., 5-11, 175, R/R); OF/C Garet Hobbs (Sr., 5-10, 200, R/R); RHP Hudson Coleman (Sr., 5-9, 150, R/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP/1B Bailey Barfield (Jr., 6-3, 185, R/R); 2B Conner Richmond (So., 5-8, 135, R/R); RHP/3B Cole Lancaster (Jr., 5-10, 150, R/R); OF Dallas Pheil (So., 5-10, 175, R/R); RHP/OF Jordan Grinnell (Jr., 6-0, 175, R/R); RHP/1B Brant Drinnon (Jr., 5-8, 200, R/R); OF Taylor Ellenberg (Jr., 5-10, 170, R/R)

Season Outlook: In what was an unusual season for Crisp County in 2017, the Cougars still made the state playoffs and advanced to the second round. Crisp should be better in 2018 as a solid corps of seniors are back. One of those is standout infielder Myles Napier (.432 avg., 21 RBIs). Pitcher Billy Jones also returns.

DOUGHERTY TROJANS

Head Coach: Johnny Marshall (new)

Survey not returned

MONROE TORNADOES

Head Coach: Jamine Turner

Survey not returned

WORTH COUNTY RAMS

Head Coach: Will Smith

Assistant Coach (s):

Kaleb Hathcock,
Al Rumble

2017 Record: 23-6

Returning Starters:

RHP/C Hunter Goodwin (Sr., 6-5, 225, R/R); SS DJ Edwards (Sr., 5-10, 175, R/R); RHP/U Gabe Goff (Jr., 6-4, 175, R/R); OF Garrett Kelly (Jr., 6-0, 175, R/R); INF/RHP Jeremiah Reddell (So., 5-8, 160, R/R); C/OF Bailey Coker (So., 5-8, 160, R/R); RHP/OF Jack Fletcher (So., 6-3, 170, R/R)

Other Returning

Players: OF Cason

King (So., 5-9, 150, L/R);

RHP/1B Gabe Burger

(So., 5-10, 185, R/R); INF Bryce Graddy (So., 5-9, 170, R/R); INF Cody

Ragan (Sr., 5-10, 160, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP/1B Griffin Melton (Fr., 5-8, 150, L/R); C/INF

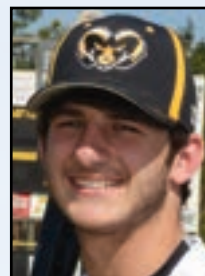
Worth Smith (Fr., 5-9, 175, R/R)

Season Outlook: Worth County won the region title last year and the

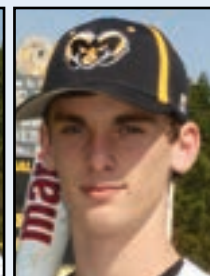
Rams will contend again. Worth has a solid corps of pitchers – Hunter

Goodwin (8-1, 1.62 ERA), Gabe Goff, Jeremiah Reddell and Jack Fletcher.

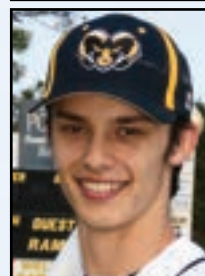
Senior shortstop DJ Edwards (.409 avg., 20 SB) returns to spark the offense.



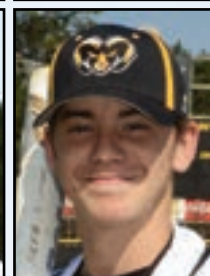
DJ Edwards
Worth County



Jack Fletcher
Worth County



Gabe Goff
Worth County



Jeremiah Reddell
Worth County

REGION 2-3A

Region Favorite: Pierce County

Players to Watch

U/RHP – Klay Allen, Sr., Pierce County

RHP/INF – Jason Ammons, Sr., Appling County

RHP/INF – Shawn Brown, So., Appling County

RHP/SS/3B – Colton Infinger, Sr., Long County

C/RHP – Garrett Jewitt, Sr., Brantley County

C/2B – Ronnie Keaton, Sr., Liberty County

RHP/INF – Cameron Moore, Sr., Brantley County

SS/2B – Bennett Oliver, Sr., Tattnall County

RHP/OF – Micah Rentz, Sr., Appling County

OF/LHP – Walker Sinclair, Sr., Pierce County

LHP/1B – Andrew Swindell, Sr., Long County

RHP/INF – Jake Thrift, Sr., Brantley County

LHP/1B – Jacob Todd, So., Tattnall County

INF – Ben Tuten, Sr., Pierce County

RHP – Cody Williams, Sr., Pierce County

1B – Matt Williams, Sr., Liberty County



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APPLING COUNTY PIRATES

Head Coach: Jeremy Smith

Assistant Coach (s): Tyler Cason, Jarred Crumpton, Andrew Livingston, Aaron Kicklighter, Landry Tillman, Jay Powers

2017 Record: 19-12

Returning Starters: RHP/OF Micah Rentz (Sr., L/R); RHP/INF Jason Ammons (Sr., R/R); LHP/OF Elijah Hale (Sr., L/L); RHP/INF Joshua Atkinson (Sr., R/R); C Chase Stone (Sr., R/R); INF Drew Dowdney (Sr., R/R); RHP/INF Shawn Brown (So., R/R); OF James Jones (Jr., R/R)

Other Returning Players: INF Jakob Tomberlin (Sr., R/R); RHP/INF Preston Bush (Sr., R/R); RHP/INF Price Eason (Sr., R/R); OF Eli Swain (Jr., R/R); OF Bailey Nail (Jr., R/R); INF Hunter O'Berry (Jr., R/R); RHP/INF Mikel Barlow (Jr., R/R); OF Matthew Poblete (So., L/R); INF Luke Hutchinson (So., R/R); C/INF Drew Jacobs (So., R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP/INF Holton Simmons (Jr., R/R); LHP/OF Jake Carter (Jr., L/L); INF John David Black (Jr., R/R); RHP/INF Cameron Mock (Jr., R/R)

Season Outlook: In what was supposed to be a rebuilding season last year, Appling County won 19 games and made the second round of the state playoffs. A strong senior class returns as the Pirates should challenge for the region title this spring. Pitcher Jason Ammons gives Appling a solid nucleus to build around, while three-year starter Micah Rentz also returns.



Jason Ammons
Appling County

BRANTLEY COUNTY HERONS

Head Coach: Paul Able

Assistant Coach (s): Mike McNeil, Max Stieve

2017 Record: 15-18

Returning Starters: RHP/INF Cameron Moore (Sr., 6-0, 170, R/R); RHP/INF/OF Trace Martin (So., 6-1, 180, L/R); INF Josh Smith (Sr., 5-8, 200, R/R); OF Landon Middleton (Sr., 5-10, 185, R/R); RHP/INF Jake Thrift (Sr., 5-9, 170, R/R); C/RHP Garrett Jewett (Sr., 6-1, 210, R/R); RHP/INF/OF Jesse Trent (So., 5-6, 140, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Jacob Rowell (Sr., 5-10, 170, R/R); INF Korey Clark (Jr., 6-0, 165, R/R); RHP Chris Nelms (Sr., 6-1, 170, R/R); C/INF Kyce McLeod (So., 5-7, 150, R/R); RHP/INF/OF Dawson Thomas (So., 5-7, 140, R/R); RHP/INF Parker White (Jr., 6-0, 200, R/R); OF Jacob Brooks (Sr., 5-10, 160, R/R); RHP/INF/OF Aden Crosby (So., 5-10, 170, R/R); OF Cameron Wainwright (Sr., 6-0, 170, L/R)

Top Newcomers: Cager Flowers, Bryson Lee, Zach Mosley, Gabe Thrift, Trinity Lee, Colby Shuman, Beau Nazworth, Bryston Knight, Walker Gill, Cameron Allen, Zach Hickox

Season Outlook: Brantley County made the state playoffs last season, and they should be in contention again this spring. A wealth of returning starters are back, including infielder/pitcher Cameron Moore (.360 avg., 19 RBIs), catcher/pitcher Garrett Jewett and pitcher/infielder Jake Thrift.

LIBERTY COUNTY PANTHERS

Head Coach: Brandon Whitmore (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Chris Johnson, James Martin

2017 Record: 5-20

Returning Starters: C/2B Ronnie Keaton (Sr., 6-0, 175, L/R); 1B Matt Williams (Sr., 6-3, 150, R/R); SS/2B Brett Smith (Jr., 5-11, 165, L/R); OF Patrick Underwood (Jr., 5-10, 165, R/R); 1B/C Trent Gerber (Jr., 6-0, 180, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Collin Lairimore (Jr., 5-10, 150, R/R);

3B/1B Mason Stromquist (Jr., 5-11, 210, R/R); OF Carlos Hannah (Jr., 5-9, 150, R/R); 2B Keaton Eason (Jr., 5-10, 165, R/R); 1B Liam Lyle (Jr., 5-9, 170, R/R)

Top Newcomers: SS/2B Corbin Sabin (Fr., 6-0, 150, R/R)

Season Outlook: Brandon Whitmore takes over at Liberty County and seeks to turn around a Panther program that struggled last spring. Five starters are back, including catcher/infielder Ronnie Keaton (.394 avg., 11 2B). A talented group of juniors will be expected to step forward and contribute.

LONG COUNTY BLUE TIDE

Head Coach: James Hobbs (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Tyler Chambliss, Justin Flowers, Matt Brown

2017 Record: 7-18

Returning Starters: LHP/1B Andrew Swindell (Sr., 6-1, 215, L/L); RHP/SS/3B Colton Infinger (Sr., 5-10, 165, R/R); LHP/1B Britt Crews (Sr., 5-10, 190, L/L); RF Marquis Henley (Sr., 5-10, 180, R/R); C/2B Rex Johnson (Jr., 5-8, 165, R/R); SS/RHP Ethan Williams (So., 5-9, 160, R/R); C/RHP Jared Lynn (Sr., 5-10, 165, R/R)

Other Returning Players: 3B Carlos Cruz (So., 5-8, 200, R/R); C/2B Landon Osburn (Jr., 5-7, 155, R/R); 2B/1B Luke Wells (So., 5-9, 170, R/R); LF/RHP Allen Crystal (Jr., 5-11, 150, L/R)

Top Newcomers: CF/LHP/1B TJ Crisswell (Fr., 5-8, 165, R/L)

Season Outlook: James Hobbs takes over a Long County program that struggled last season. The Blue Tide will look to get things turned around this spring. Seven starters are back, including senior pitcher/first baseman Andrew Swindell and pitcher/infielder Colton Infinger.

PIERCE COUNTY BEARS

Head Coach: Andrew Evans

Assistant Coach (s):

Jacob Evors, Tyler Rogers

2017 Record: 28-9

Returning Starters:

INF Ben Tuten (Sr.); OF/RHP Cody Williams (Sr.); INF Klay Allen (Sr.); INF Blake Bishop (Sr.); OF/LHP Walter Sinclair (Sr.); C Nick Golub (Sr.)

Other Returning

Players: INF Ben Baker (Jr.); U Bryce Bowen (Jr.); P Tanner Bryant (Sr.); OF/P Andrew Walsh (So.); OF Blane Jowers (Sr.); OF/P Johnny Waters (Jr.)

Season Outlook: Pierce County lost some talent from last season, but the Bears have enough talent returning to make a deep postseason run again. Six senior starters are back, including all-state pitcher Cody Williams and utility man Klay Allen. Infielder Ben Tuten also returns.



Klay Allen
Pierce County



Ben Tuten
Pierce County



Cody Williams
Pierce County

TATTNALL COUNTY WARRIORS

Head Coach: Ben Collins (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Matthew Swain, Jordan Huerta

2017 Record: 9-17

Returning Starters: SS/OF Craig Saxton (Sr., 6-0, 190, R/R); CF Ahmad Edwards (Sr., 6-1, 200, R/R); SS/2B Bennett Oliver (Sr., 5-10,

170, R/R); OF Logan Stanfield (Jr., 5-11, 170, R/R); C Brody Kicklighter (Jr., 6-2, 205, R/R); 3B/SS Fox Collins (Jr., 5-9, 165, R/R); LHP/1B Jacob Todd (So., 5-10, 230, L/L); OF/C Tay Black (So., 5-10, 180, L/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP/INF Tyler Yancey (Jr., R/R); RHP/OF Nick Blocker (Sr., R/R); OF Ben Brazel (Sr., R/R); RHP/INF Dylan Dansby (Sr., R/R); RHP/INF Ethan Deloach (So., R/R); RHP/INF Nick McCall (So., R/R)

Top Newcomers: P/INF Dawson Harrelson (Fr.); P/OF Kaleb Kennedy (Fr.); P/C Aiden Willis (Fr.)

Season Outlook: New coach Ben Collins inherits a wealth of talent as Tattnall County should improve upon last season's finish. Eight starters are back, including infielder Bennett Oliver. Left-handed pitcher/first baseman Jacob Todd returns after a promising freshman campaign.

REGION 3-3A

Region Favorite: Southeast Bulloch

Players to Watch

INF/RHP – Tyler Bailey, Jr., Southeast Bulloch

U – Dezmond Brinson, Sr., Savannah

3B – Keith Bryant, Sr., Savannah

U – Josh Caldwell, Sr., Islands

U – James Conyers, Jr., Johnson-Savannah

C – Lucas Crecy, Jr., Islands

INF/RHP – Bryan Encarnacion, Sr., Jenkins

C – Carlos Ferrer, Jr., Johnson-Savannah

RHP/INF – Tyler Founé, Sr., Islands

RHP/2B – Tyrese Gardener, Sr., Jenkins

C/3B/RHP – Tamonja Hamilton, Sr., Savannah

OF – Javonte Middleton, Sr., Jenkins

INF/RHP – Cole Mincey, Sr., Southeast Bulloch

RHP/OF – Kole Newman, Sr., Islands

C/1B – Ahmad O'Neal, Sr., Jenkins

BEACH BULLDOGS

Head Coach: Ulysses Hawthorne

Survey not returned

GROVES REBELS

Head Coach: Mike Martin (new)

Survey not returned

ISLANDS SHARKS

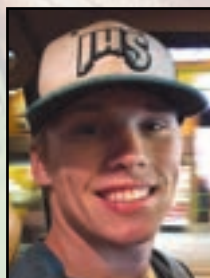
Head Coach: Nick Pou

Assistant Coach (s): Alex DeMaio, Justin Creager

2017 Record: 14-18

Returning Starters: RHP/OF Kole Newman (Sr., R/R); RHP/INF Tyler Founé (Sr., R/R); U Josh Caldwell (Sr., R/R); LHP/OF Will Pitts (Sr., L/L); C Lucas Crecy (Jr., R/R); INF Ryan Arnold (Jr., R/R); INF Mikey Largis (So., R/R)

Other Returning Players: 1B Collin Young (Jr.,



Kole Newman
Islands

R/R); RHP/1B Gus Bachman (Jr., R/R); LHP/OF CJ Wallace (So., L/L); C Josh Farley (Jr., R/R); RHP Cole Donahue (Sr., R/R); U Chase Kersey (Jr., R/R)

Top Newcomers: C/INF Bryce Hinson (Jr., R/R); RHP/OF Koel Strong (Jr., L/R)

Season Outlook: Islands had an uncharacteristic 14-18 season last year. Look for the Sharks to be much better in 2018. Seven starters are back, including all-state pitcher/outfielder Kole Newman. Pitcher Tyler Founé also returns, while catcher Lucas Crecy and Josh Caldwell return to lead the offense.

JENKINS WARRIORS

Head Coach: Seth Gaspin

Assistant Coach (s): Billy McAdams, Dan Ligon, Jonathan Schwartzfisher

2017 Record: 15-11

Returning Starters: OF Javonte Middleton (Sr., 6-2, 190, R/R); C/1B Ahmad O'Neal (Sr., 6-2, 185, R/R); RHP/2B Tyrese Gardener (Sr., 5-7, 165, R/R); 3B/RHP Carson Mason (So., 5-9, 150, R/R); OF/RHP Amon Tinsley (Jr., 6-2, 165, R/R); INF/RHP Ardis Pickett (So., 5-8, 150, R/R); LHP/1B Austin Tse (So., 6-2, 210, L/L)

Other Returning Players: C Jessee Harrelson (So., 5-10, 145, R/R); OF Kyree McLean (So., 5-7, 150, R/R); OF Morree Favors (So., 5-8, 160, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP/3B Andre Sasserville (Jr., 5-10, 165, R/R); RHP/INF Ryan Miller (Jr., 5-10, 150, R/R); INF/RHP Bryan Encarnacion (Sr., 6-0, 175, R/R); OF/RHP Darius Bush (So., 5-10, 150, R/R)

Season Outlook: A good nucleus of talent returns for Jenkins who should challenge for the region crown. Seven starters are back, including a talented sophomore class that played well as freshmen. Outfielder Javonte Middleton, catcher/first baseman Ahmad O'Neal (.432 avg.) and Tyrese Gardener (.370 avg.) return to lead the offense. Keep an eye on newcomer Bryan Encarnacion, who should provide a spark.

JOHNSON-SAVANNAH ATOM SMASHERS

Head Coach: Aaron Jackson

Assistant Coach (s): Robert Vogel

2017 Record: 4-18

Returning Starters: C Carlos Ferrer (Jr., 5-10, 190, R/R); U James Conyers (Jr., 5-9, 160, R/R); OF/RHP LeGregory Dykes (Jr., 6-0, 170, R/R); INF Robert Williams (Jr., 5-6, 150, R/R); OF Mikell Manigo (Jr., 6-0, 175, R/R); U Tayon Vereen (Jr., 6-0, 180, R/R); RHP/INF Akelo Stone (So., 6-1, 185, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Vincent Montgomery (So., 6-0, 165, R/R); INF Vernon Osborne (Jr., 5-8, 170, R/R); INF Robert Davis (So., 5-7, 155, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP/INF Namon Pointer (Jr., 6-0, 170, R/R)

Season Outlook: Johnson welcomes back the return of seven starters and the program should have a chance to improve upon last season's record. A talented group of juniors comprise most of the roster. Look for some sophomores to contribute.

SAVANNAH BLUE JACKETS

Head Coach: Moses Green (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Rob Bryan

2017 Record: 2-12

Returning Starters: U Dezmond Brinson (Sr., 5-10, 210); 3B Keith Bryant (Sr., 5-8, 160); 2B Donte Harris (Jr., 5-8, 130); U/RHP Jasheem Bratten (So., 6-0, 130); C/3B/RHP Tamonja Hamilton (Sr., 5-9, 160); 1B Xavier Threatt (Sr., 6-4, 265); OF/C Tyreke Martin (Jr., 5-9, 125)

Other Returning Players: OF Darnell Townsend (So., 5-9, 170); C Jadon Oliver (So., 5-9, 125); OF Kevin Johnson (So., 5-8, 125); OF Jontae Bryant (So., 5-8, 160)

Season Outlook: First-year coach Moses Green takes over and looks to help Savannah High take positive steps. The Blue Jackets have an excellent nucleus of returning players. Utility player Dezmond Brinson, third baseman Keith Bryant and catcher/infielder/pitcher Tamonja Hamilton are three players to keep an eye on.

SOUTHEAST BULLOCH YELLOW JACKETS

Head Coach: Brandon Peterson

Assistant Coach (s): Rob Alford, Dan Czech, Kyle Rehm

2017 Record: 18-9

Returning Starters: INF/RHP Cole Mincey (Sr., 6-0, 175, R/R); INF/RHP Tyler Bailey (Sr., 6-2, 185, R/R); 1B/LHP Dylan Raurks (Sr., 6-0, 190, R/L); 2B/RHP Michael Rigdon (Sr., 5-9, 165, R/R); 1B/RHP Tyler Deloach (Sr., 6-2, 225, R/R); OF Toby Williams (Sr., 6-0, 175, R/R); OF/RHP Hunter Griffin (Sr., 6-0, 170, R/R)

Other Returning Players: C Slade Burgin (Sr., 5-8, 180, L/R); INF/RHP Blaize Minick (Sr., 6-1, 175, R/R); OF Chase Walker (Sr., 5-7, 195, R/R); OF Allen Davis (Sr., 5-7, 165, R/R); INF Colby Marsh (Sr., 5-7, 160, R/R)

Top Newcomers: 1B Will Adams (Sr., 6-2, 220, R/R); C/INF Brandon Breda (Sr., 5-11, 195, R/R)

Season Outlook: Southeast Bulloch should be in contention for the region title. The Jackets welcome the return of seven starters. SEB may be a year away from reaching its full potential. The senior class is small, and the bulk of the talent is in a large junior class. Keep an eye on senior Cole Mincey and junior Tyler Bailey.

WINDSOR FOREST KNIGHTS

Head Coach: TBA

Survey not returned

REGION 4-3A

Region Favorite: Pike County

Players to Watch

RHP/OF – Will Bethune, Sr., Pike County

OF/LHP – Victor Burnett, Sr., Westside-Macon

INF/RHP – Coleman Crow, Sr., Pike County

RHP/INF – Britt Davis, Sr., Peach County

C – Cornelius Davis, Sr., Westside-Macon

OF – Tevin Davis, Sr., Jackson

OF – Jonathan Harnist, Jr., Rutland

OF – Eric Johnson, Jr., Peach County

LHP – Jake Maddox, Sr., Jackson

INF – Landon Miller, Sr., Rutland

INF/OF/C – Mick Moody, Sr., Jackson

RHP/OF/1B – Andrew Moore, Sr., Jackson

CENTRAL MACON CHARGERS

Head Coach: Rico Gibson

Survey not returned

JACKSON RED DEVILS

Head Coach: Mickey Moody

Assistant Coach (s): Casey Moody, Thomas Briscoe, Charlie Biles, Drew Rogers

2017 Record: 19-9

Returning Starters: RHP/OF Andrew Moore (Sr., 6-4, 195, R/R); RHP/INF Keith Taylor (Sr., 5-10, 175, R/R); C/INF Brent Burford (So., 5-9, 160, R/R); LHP/OF Payton Hyson (Sr., 5-10, 165, L/L); 1B/DH Will Gibby (Sr., 5-11, 180, R/R); OF/LHP Tevin Davis (Sr., 6-1, 170, L/L); LHP/1B Jake Maddox (Sr., 6-3, 235, L/L); INF Michael Johnson (Sr., 5-9, 160, R/R)

Other Returning Players: INF Bo Mosteller (So., 5-10, 165, R/R); INF/RHP Dakota Copeland (So., 6-0, 160, R/R)

Top Newcomers: INF/C/OF Mick Moody (Sr., 5-8, 175, R/R)

Season Outlook: Jackson begins its second season under coach Mickey Moody and the Red Devils should contend for the postseason again. Eight starters are back, including offensive leader Andrew Moore (.424 avg., 30 RBIs), Tevin Davis (.346 avg.) and Mick Moody. Left-hander Jake Maddox leads a solid pitching corps.



Andrew Moore
Jackson

KENDRICK CHEROKEES

Head Coach: Michael Peek

Survey not returned

PEACH COUNTY TROJANS

Head Coach: Jeff Bailey

Assistant Coach (s): Craig Johnson, Keith Barker

2017 Record: 9-19

Returning Starters: RHP/INF Britt Davis (Sr., R/R); OF Eric Johnson (Sr., R/R); INF/C Dylan Perry (Sr., R/R); OF Jalen Green (Sr., R/R)

Other Returning Players: INF/OF/RHP Brody Harrelson (Sr., R/R); OF/INF Chandler Meeks (Sr., R/R); RHP/INF/OF Chris Gibson (Sr., R/R); INF/RHP Landon Davis (Sr., R/R)

Season Outlook: Peach County seeks to improve upon a disappointing finish in the 2017 season. The Trojans have four returning starters. Pitcher/infielder Britt Davis and outfielder Eric Johnson return to spark the team.

PIKE COUNTY PIRATES

Head Coach: Don Hanson

Assistant Coach (s): Blake Parrott

2017 Record: 25-10

Returning Starters: RHP/OF Will Bethune (Sr., 6-2, 190, R/R); RHP/1B/3B Peyton Barman (Sr., 6-3, 190, R/R); LHP/OF Hunter Marion (Sr., 5-8, 165, L/L); C/2B Liam Holliday (Sr., 5-9, 170, R/R); C/1B John Sutton (Sr., 5-11, 185, L/R); RHP/U Taylor Cook (Sr., 5-8, 150, L/R); LHP/OF Jake Maddox (Sr., 5-10, 165, L/L)

Other Returning Players: INF/RHP Coleman Crow (Sr., 5-7, 155, R/R); 3B/OF/RHP Marsh Burford (Sr., 5-10, 150, R/R); INF/RHP Wyatt Lee (Sr., 5-7, 155, R/R); LHP/1B Coleman Boynton (So., 5-9, 170, L/L); RHP/OF/1B Jacob Reeves (So., 6-0, 185, L/R)

Top Newcomers: INF/OF Luke Alpough (Sr., 5-8, 165, R/R); RHP/INF/OF Chad Davis (Sr., 6-2, 180, R/R); RHP/INF/OF Noah Windhorst (Sr.,

6-0, 170, R/R); RHP/INF/OF Dylan Garner (So., 6-1, 180, R/R)

Season Outlook: A senior-laden team returns as Pike County should contend for the region crown this spring. Seven starters are back, including infielder/pitcher Coleman Crow and pitcher/outfielder Will Bethune. A solid corps of juniors will also contribute.

RUTLAND HURRICANES

Head Coach: Steven Gunn (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Jody Heath

2017 Record: 10-16

Returning Starters: 2B Landon Miller (Sr., R/R); SS Wesley Key (Jr., R/R); OF Bryce Martin (Jr., R/R); OF Jonathan Harnist (Jr., R/R)

Other Returning Players: C Triston Thompson (So., L/R); OF Aubrey Merritt (Jr., R/R); INF Peyton McKinney (Jr., R/R)

Season Outlook: New coach Steven Gunn takes over and will try to keep Rutland in the postseason hunt. The Hurricanes welcome back four starters. Even though the senior class is small, some underclassmen will contribute. Infielder Landon Miller returns after a solid junior season last year.

WESTSIDE-MACON SEMINOLES

Head Coach: Shaun Lenderman

Assistant Coach (s): Adam Goodwin

2017 Record: 6-16

Other Returning Players: OF/LHP Victor Burnett (Sr., 5-10, 145, L/L); SS/RHP Malcolm Mayfield (Sr., 6-0, 150, R/R); C Cornelius Davis (Sr., 5-10, 140, R/R); 1B Emanuel Boone (Sr., 6-2, 280, R/R); 3B/C Shon Adams (Jr., 6-2, 250, R/R); OF Landon Emery (Jr., 5-11, 160, R/R); OF/INF TyShaun Freeman (Jr., 6-0, 175, L/L)

Top Newcomers: INF/OF Jayme Cooper (So., 5-9, 140, R/R); INF/RHP Brandon Ross (So., 5-10, 155, R/R); INF/RHP Thomas Pate (So., 5-11, 140, R/R); INF Keshawn Rivers (So., 5-10, 130, R/R)

Season Outlook: Westside should have a chance to improve upon last season's finish as a good mixture of talent returns. Outfielder/pitcher Victor Burnett and catcher Cornelius Davis return, giving the Seminoles a pair of solid players to build around. Juniors Shon Adams and Landon Emery return after showing promise as sophomores last year.



REGION 5-3A

Region Favorite: Redan

Players to Watch

C/OF – Orlando Adams, Sr., Redan

RHP/OF – Taj Bradley, Sr., Redan

RHP/1B/OF – Chayce Bryant, Sr., Redan

3B/SS – Zeke Diamond, Sr., Pace Academy

INF – Ben Forte, Jr., Westminster

C – Drayton Foster, Sr., Lovett

INF – Parks Harber, So., Westminster

LHP – Luke Jannetta, Jr., Westminster

U – Andrew Jenkins, Jr., Pace Academy

RHP/OF – Kameron Marshall, Sr., Redan

OF – Evan McKown, Sr., Lovett

OF/1B – Ryan Miller, Sr., Westminster

OF/RHP – Wyatt Nelson, Sr., Lovett

RHP – Ben O'Meara, Sr., Lovett

3B/RHP – Dhruv Patel, Jr., Lovett

SS/RHP – Jack Polhemus, Sr., Westminster

RHP/INF – Kelvin Smith, Sr., Redan

SS – Jaden Steagall, Sr., Pace Academy

RHP/INF – Hunter Todd, Sr., Redan

OF/INF – Peter York, Sr., Westminster

CEDAR GROVE SAINTS

Head Coach: Lavato Byrd

Survey not returned

LOVETT LIONS

Head Coach: Lance Oubs

Assistant Coach (s):

Jamie Palmer, Vince Nasca, David McDonald

2017 Record: 20-14

Returning Starters: C Drayton Foster (Sr., 5-10, 180, R/R); 1B/RHP Charles Gibson (Sr., 6-3, 195, R/R); 2B Peyton Ringer (Sr., 5-6, 150, R/R); SS Trent Beavor (Sr., 5-10, 175, R/R); OF Evan McKown (Sr., 6-0, 175, R/R); OF/RHP Wyatt Nelson (Sr., 5-11, 165, R/R); INF/RHP Ben O'Meara (Sr., 6-2, 160, R/R)

Other Returning

Players: 3B/RHP Dhruv Patel (Jr., 6-0, 160, R/R); OF/RHP Grayson Nix (Jr., 6-0, 165, R/R)



Drayton Foster
Lovett

Evan McKown
Lovett



Wyatt Nelson
Lovett

Ben O'Meara
Lovett

Top Newcomers: C/1B Will Seiler (Jr., 6-3, 225, R/R); 3B/RHP Lance Beck (Jr., 6-3, 180, R/R); OF Robert Poindexter (Jr., 6-3, 195, R/R); 1B/LHP David Underwood (So., 5-11, 140, R/L)

Season Outlook: A strong senior class will lead the way for Lovett, who should contend for the region title. Seven starters are back, including pitcher Ben O'Meara (5-2, 2.47 ERA). Catcher Drayton Foster (.353 avg., 19 RBIs) and outfielder Evan McKown (.415 avg.) are back to lead the offense.

MCNAIR MUSTANGS

Head Coach: Marcus Salter

Survey not returned

PACE ACADEMY KNIGHTS

Head Coach: Seth LaFera (new)

Assistant Coach (s):

Jase Wrigley,
Shane McGill

2017 Record: 20-9

Returning Starters: INF

Jaden Steagall (Sr., R/R); INF Zeke Diamond (Sr., R/R); OF David Roos (Sr., R/R); RHP Ben Bernstein (Sr., R/R); OF Ryan Mazur (Sr., R/R); INF/OF Andrew Jenkins (Jr.,

R/R); RHP Brian Zeldin (Jr., R/R); INF Mitchell O'Berry (Jr., R/R); LHP TJ Rafeedie (Jr., L/L); OF Ross Oglesby (Jr., R/R); OF Ben Tolliday (So., R/R)

Other Returning Players: C Gavin Guest (Jr., R/R); 1B Bennett Treadway (Jr., R/R); INF Harris Greenbaum (So., R/R)

Top Newcomers: 1B Darien Howard (Jr., R/R)

Season Outlook: Pace won 20 games last season, and most of that talent returns. If the Knights' pitching staff matures and develops, Pace should contend for the region title. Infielder/outfielder Andrew Jenkins as well as seniors Jaden Steagall (.384 avg.) and Zeke Diamond (.423 avg., 33 RBIs) return.



Zeke Diamond
Pace Academy



Andrew Jenkins
Pace Academy



Jaden Steagall
Pace Academy

REDAN RAIDERS

Head Coach: Alexander Wyche

Assistant Coach (s):

Christopher Hardnett,
Marcus Mays, D. Blanton,
J. Jones

2017 Record: 25-11

Returning Starters:

RHP/OF/INF Taj Bradley (Sr., 6-3, 195, R/R); RHP/INF Hunter Todd (Sr., 5-9, 200, R/R); RHP/INF Kelvin Smith (Sr., 6-1, 190, R/R);



Orlando Adams
Redan



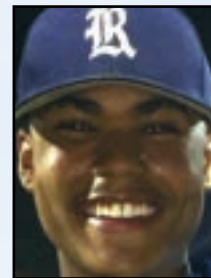
Chayce Bryant
Redan

C/OF Orlando Adams (Sr., 6-1, 210, R/R); RHP/INF Chayce Bryant (Sr., 6-5, 220, R/R); RHP/OF/INF Kameron Marshall (Sr., 5-10, 170, R/R); INF/OF Lyndon Weaver (Sr., 6-1, 190, R/R); OF Ja'Shaun Franks (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/R)

Other Returning Players: INF Jeffrey Dotson (Sr., 6-2, 230, R/R); RHP/INF Donye Evans (So., 6-4, 160, R/R)

Season Outlook: After winning the region title last year, Redan made the quarterfinals. The bulk of that team returns, including offensive standouts Taj Bradley (.441 avg., 28 RBIs), Hunter Todd (.440 avg., 22 RBIs) and Kelvin Smith (.433 avg., 14 2B).

Pitchers Kameron Marshall, Chayce Bryant and Bradley lead a strong rotation.



Taj Bradley
Redan



Kameron Marshall
Redan



Hunter Todd
Redan

STONE MOUNTAIN PIRATES

Head Coach: Willie Howard

Survey not returned

TOWERS TITANS

Head Coach: TBA

Survey not returned

WESTMINSTER WILDCATS

Head Coach: Chad Laney

Assistant Coach (s):

Doug Boomer, Brent McGuire, Adam Pullen, Steve Stodghill, Joe Sturniolo

2017 Record: 17-10

Returning Starters:

OF/1B Ryan Miller (Sr., 6-2, 190, R/R); OF Raymond Baltz (Sr., 6-1, 185, L/R); OF Ward Croft (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/R); SS/RHP Jack Polhemus (Sr., 5-10, 175, R/R); OF/INF Peter York (Sr., 5-10, 180, L/R); INF Ben Forte (Jr., 5-10, 185, R/R); INF Parks Harber (So., 6-2, 190, R/R); LHP Luke Jannetta (Jr., 6-0, 185, L/L); LHP Jonathan Morgan (So., 5-10, 180, L/L); RHP Junta Yasuda (Jr., 5-10, 180, R/R)

Other Returning Players: C Davis Wilson (Jr., 5-10, 185, R/R); RHP/1B Banks Paltford (Jr., 6-3, 190, R/R); LHP/OF Edward Shores (Jr., 6-4, 190, R/L); LHP Crawford Asman (Sr., 5-10, 200, L/L); OF David Edmiston (Sr., 5-10, 195, L/R); C/INF Charlie McCollum (Sr., 6-0, 185, R/R)

Top Newcomers: LHP Grant Barron (Jr., 6-0, 185, L/L)

Season Outlook: After somewhat of a rebuilding season in 2017, look for Westminster to be back this spring. A total of 10 returners are back, including leading hitter Ryan Miller (.406 avg.). Standouts Parks Harber, Peter York, Ben Forte and Jack Polhemus also are back. Left-handed pitcher Luke Jannetta leads a solid pitching rotation.



Luke Jannetta
Westminster



Ryan Miller
Westminster

REGION 6-3A

Region Favorite: Ringgold

Players to Watch

LHP/1B – Davis Allen, Jr., Calhoun
C – Jaden Baggett, Sr., North Murray
INF – Nathan Camp, Sr., Ringgold
2B – Luke Cash, Sr., Haralson County
INF/RHP – Kyle Dotson, Sr., Murray County
LHP/1B – Caden Gibbs, Sr., Adairsville
INF/OF – Hunter Hice, Sr., Adairsville
LHP/OF – Waylon James, Sr., North Murray
OF – Hayden Jones, Sr., Bremen
3B/OF – Ty Jones, Sr., Ringgold
OF – Carson Kemp, Sr., Calhoun
OF – Chase Kirby, Sr., Sonoraville
RHP – Grant Ogle, Jr., Coahulla Creek
RHP/INF – Kyler Pelfrey, Sr., Adairsville
OF – Preston Poag, Jr., North Murray
LHP/1B – Brett Potts, Sr., Calhoun
SS/2B – Drew Sage, Jr., Coahulla Creek
CF – Traylon Sheppard, Jr., Haralson County
3B/2B – Donovan Sims, Jr., Coahulla Creek
OF – Andre Tarver, Jr., Ringgold
C – Sam Thompson, Sr., Bremen
LHP/OF – Holden Tucker, Jr., Ringgold
RHP – Eli Turso, Jr., Coahulla Creek
OF/LHP – Preston Van Meter, Sr., Murray County
3B – Matthew Vincent, Sr., Sonoraville

ADAIRSVILLE TIGERS

Head Coach: Billy Roper

Assistant Coach (s): Chris Hardin, Sebastian Eason, Matt Taylor, Logan Tant

2017 Record: 10-19

Returning Starters: RHP/INF Kyler Pelfrey (Sr., 6-2, 170, R/R); OF/INF Hunter Hice (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/R); RHP/1B Caden Gibbs (Sr., 6-0, 190, L/R); OF Corey Nation (Sr., 5-8, 160, R/R); OF/RHP Garrett Mishoe (Sr., 6-4, 185, R/R); OF/RHP Cody Henderson (Sr., 6-4, 170, R/R); C/INF Halen Huskins (Sr., 6-0, 180, L/R); 2B Noah Dutton (Sr., 5-9, 175, R/R)

Other Returning Players: LHP/OF BJ Roper (Jr., 5-6, 140, L/L); C/RHP Landon Ayers (Jr., 5-9, 170, R/R); C/INF Michael Cook (Jr., 5-10, 165, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP/INF Chase Horn (Jr., 5-9, 155, R/R); RHP/INF Levi Blackwell (Jr., 5-7, 150, R/R); RHP/OF Noah Nation (Jr., 5-11, 160, R/R); INF Peyton DeBerry (Jr., 5-7, 170, R/R)

Season Outlook: Look for Adairsville to be much better after a disappointing season in 2017. Eight starters, all of them seniors, return. The list of returning starters includes top pitchers Kyler Pelfrey and Caden Gibbs. Outfielder/infielder Hunter Hice returns to lead the offense. A solid junior class will also contribute.

BREMEN BLUE DEVILS

Head Coach: Chris Brown (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Doc Fowlkes, Billy Pollard, Josh Carter

2017 Record: 10-16

Returning Starters: C Sam Thompson (Sr., 6-1, 190, R/R); OF Hayden Jones (Sr., 5-10, 190, R/R); SS Carson Cook (Jr., 6-0, 190, R/R); RHP Bret Barrow (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/R); 3B Griffin Crook (So., 6-1, 175, R/R); OF Cooper Cartwright (So., 5-11, 180, R/R)

Top Newcomers: 1B Jimbo Brown (So., 6-3, 200, R/R)

Season Outlook: Former Alexander coach Chris Brown takes over at Bremen and looks to turn around a program that struggled last season. Six starters are back. All-state catcher Sam Thompson (.469 avg., 3 HR) returns, while senior Bret Barrow leads a young pitching rotation.



Sam Thompson
Bremen

CALHOUN YELLOW JACKETS

Head Coach: Chip Henderson

Assistant Coach (s):

Donnie Robertson, Veda Ruiz, Josh Wiggins, David Hall

2017 Record: 23-15

Returning Starters:

LHP/1B Brett Potts (Sr., 5-8, 195, L/L); CF Carson Kemp (Sr., 5-9, 150, R/R); LHP/1B Davis Allen (Jr., 6-6, 225, L/L); 3B/RHP/1B



Davis Allen
Calhoun



Brett Potts
Calhoun

Matthew Williams (So., 5-9, 180, R/R); OF/LHP Ethan Crump (So., 5-10, 145, L/L); 2B/OF Payton Morren (Jr., 5-9, 135, R/R); RHP/3B Gavin Gray (Jr., 5-11, 180, R/R); RHP/1B/DH Ben King (Jr., 6-3, 215, R/R); RHP/SS/OF Nate Bonner (Jr., 5-11, 175, R/R); 3B/C Julian Ipac (So., 5-10, 180, R/R); LHP Jeremy Register (Jr., 5-9, 155, L/L)

Other Returning Players: OF Aaron Hayes (Jr., 5-11, 170, R/R); OF Tripp Hoblitzell (Jr., 5-8, 150, R/R); C Riley Harwell (Jr., 6-1, 180, R/R)

Season Outlook: Calhoun came on strong last season and made the state semifinals. Look for the Jackets to pick up from where they left off. Calhoun is still relatively young, but pitching will be strong as left-handers Brett Potts (9-4, 3.30 ERA) and Davis Allen return. Senior outfielder Carson Kemp returns and is just one of a handful of seniors on the roster.

COAHULLA CREEK COLTS

Head Coach: Michael Bolen

Assistant Coach (s): Justin Dover, Brady Renner, Heath Lock

2017 Record: 26-11

Returning Starters: SS/2B Drew Sage (Jr., 6-1, 180, L/R); 3B/2B Donovan Sims (Jr., 5-9, 185, R/R); RHP Eli Turso (Jr., 6-2, 215, R/R); RHP Grant Ogle (Jr., 6-3, 225, R/R); C Sam Rogers (Sr., 6-0, 225, R/R); OF/LHP Michael King (Jr., 5-10, 180, L/L)

Other Returning Players: OF Jose Herrada (Sr., 5-9, 155, L/L); OF/RHP Will Douglas (Sr., 6-1, 185, R/R); OF/RHP Mason Padgett (Jr., 5-10, 180, R/R); RHP James Moore (So., 6-0, 215, R/R)

Top Newcomers: C/3B/SS Irvin Hernandez (Fr., 5-9, 145, B/R); INF Zandr Burse (So., 5-7, 125, R/R)

Season Outlook: Coahulla Creek will try to duplicate the best



Eli Turso
Coahulla Creek

season in school history this spring after the Colts made a run to the semifinals last year. Six starters are back, including all-state pitcher Eli Turso. Pitcher Grant Ogle and infielders Drew Sage and Donovan Sims also return.

HARALSON COUNTY REBELS

Head Coach: Chris Wigley

Assistant Coach (s): Joe Cash, Brian Warren, Kolt Peavey

2017 Record: 13-16

Returning Starters: 2B Luke Cash (Sr., 5-11, 180, R/R); SS Noah Ray (Sr., 5-11, 160, R/R); LF/LHP Graysen Knight (Sr., 5-10, 160, L/L); CF Traylon Sheppard (Jr., 5-10, 160, R/R); RF Phillip Haldeman (Jr., 5-9, 145, R/R); 1B/RHP Landan Malone (Sr., 5-10, 145, R/R); C Gage Crawford (Sr., 5-10, 150, R/R)

Other Returning Players: 3B Luke Glove (Jr., 6-0, 240, R/R); OF/RHP Stephen Southern (Jr., 6-1, 175, R/R); C Keagan Williams (So., 6-1, 170, R/R); SS/RHP Bryson King (So., 5-9, 150, R/R)

Top Newcomers: 1B Tucker Parrish (Fr., 5-11, 165, L/L); OF Marc Harris (Fr., 5-10, 165, R/R)

Season Outlook: Haralson County welcomes back seven returning starters. One of the returners is second baseman Luke Cash (.372 avg.), who returns to spark the offense. Outfielder Traylon Sheppard and pitcher/first baseman Landon Malone return after promising sophomore seasons last year.

LAKEVIEW-FORT OGLETHORPE WARRIORS

Head Coach: Johnny Burch

Survey not returned

MURRAY COUNTY INDIANS

Head Coach: Kim Alderdice

Assistant Coach (s): Josh Ensley, Josh Zeigler, TBA

2017 Record: 8-21

Returning Starters: RHP Cole Sparks (Sr., R/R); U/RHP Cade Vice (Sr., R/R); C/U Josh Cain (Sr., R/R); OF Coby Callahan (Sr., L/L); INF/RHP Kyle Dotson (Sr., R/R); OF/LHP Preston Van Meter (Sr., L/L); INF/RHP Justin Goswick (Jr., R/R); U/RHP Logan Palmer (So., R/R)

Other Returning Players: C Grayson Pierce (Jr., R/R); INF Josh Curtis (Jr., R/R); OF Xander Richards (So., L/R); U Jasper O'Dell (So., R/R); 1B Logan Waters (Jr., R/R); 1B Brevin Duke (Sr., L/L); 1B/RHP Zach Blaylock (Jr., R/R); OF Logan Pearson (Jr., L/L)

Season Outlook: Murray County continues to make positive strides under coach Kim Alderdice. The Indians will look to continue improving this spring. Murray had its best season in 10 years in 2017. Eight starters are back, including a strong senior class.

NORTH MURRAY MOUNTAINEERS

Head Coach: Preston Poag

Assistant Coach (s): Nick Bartley

2017 Record: 20-10

Returning Starters: LHP/OF Waylon James (Sr., 5-11, 190, L/L); C Jaden Baggett (Sr., 5-11, 235, R/R); INF/RHP Preston Buck (Sr., 5-10, 190, R/R); OF Preston Poag (Jr., 6-4, 190, L/R); 1B/RHP Brandon Bond (Sr., 6-3, 230, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Will Campbell (Jr., 6-0, 175, R/R); SS Dakota Fox (Sr., 5-9, 160, R/R); 1B Bailey Blankenship (Sr., 6-1, 250, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP/INF Nick Hagin (Sr., 5-10, 205, R/R)

Season Outlook: North Murray won 20 games and made the state

playoffs last year. Five starters are back from that team, including a solid corps of seniors. Pitcher/outfielder Waylon James and catcher Jaden Baggett as well as junior outfielder Preston Poag are three players to keep an eye on.

RINGGOLD TIGERS

Head Coach: Brent Tucker

Assistant Coach (s):

David Crownover, Danny Wiltz, Drew Walker

2017 Record: 29-8

Returning Starters: CF Andre Tarver (Jr., 6-2, 195, L/L); 3B/OF Ty Jones (Sr., 6-2, 205, R/R); RHP/INF Nathan Camp (Sr., 5-10, 155, R/R); C/1B Gavin Hollis (Sr., 6-0, 170, R/R); LHP/OF Holden Tucker (Jr., 5-11, 170, L/L); C Daulton Schley (Jr., 5-11, 195, L/R); SS/2B Brayden Broome (So., 6-2, 170, R/R)

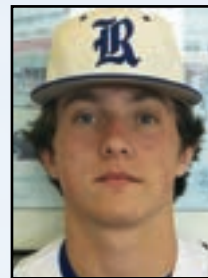
Other Returning

Players: OF/LHP Wyatt Tennant (Jr., 5-10, 170, R/L); OF Dillon Wright

(So., 5-10, 165, L/L); RHP Andrew Ghormley (Sr., 5-9, 170, R/R); LHP Ammon Murphy (Sr., 6-2, 165, L/L)

Top Newcomers: INF/RHP Owen McWhorter (Jr.)

Season Outlook: Ringgold will challenge for the region title again as a wealth of talent returns. If the Tigers can find a few more pitchers, they could make another deep postseason run. All-state performers Holden Tucker and Nathan Camp lead a solid rotation. Outfielder Andre Tarver, infielder/outfielder Ty Jones and catcher/first baseman Gavin Hollis return to lead the offense.



Nathan Camp
Ringgold



Ty Jones
Ringgold



Andre Tarver
Ringgold



Holden Tucker
Ringgold

SONORAVILLE PHOENIX

Head Coach: Daniel McArthur (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Ricky Ross, Chad Hayes, Daniel Morrison, Danny Hartline

2017 Record: 11-13

Returning Starters: OF Chase Kirby (Sr., 5-6, 150, R/R); 3B Matthew Vincent (Sr., 5-11, 185, L/R); C/2B Storm Carnes (Sr., 5-8, 155, L/R); 1B/RHP/3B Tyler Lyles (Sr., 6-0, 215, L/R); OF/SS Gavin Phillips (Sr., 5-9, 170, R/R); SS/RHP Wyatt Castoe (So., 5-11, 160, R/R); OF/RHP Gage Soulios (Sr., 6-1, 175, R/R); OF/RHP Hagan Steely (Jr., 6-2, 155, R/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP/OF Collin Bridges (Jr., 6-1, 175, R/R); LHP/OF Grant Hegwood (Jr., 5-10, 150, L/L); C/RHP Trent Walker (So., 6-2, 215, R/R); C/RHP Riley Peppers (Sr., 6-0, 190, R/R); RHP Avery Hopper (Sr., 6-3, 195, R/R)

Top Newcomers: 2B Beau Bullard (Jr., 5-7, 150, R/R)

Season Outlook: Daniel McArthur takes over at Sonoraville and inherits eight returning starters as the Phoenix look to improve upon last season's record. Third baseman Matthew Vincent (.414 avg., 31 RBIs) and outfielder Chase Kirby (.379 avg.) return to lead the offense. Sonoraville must find some consistency on the pitcher's mound.

REGION 7-3A

Region Favorite: Greater Atlanta Christian

Players to Watch

- SS** – Patrick Baggett, Sr., Union County
- RHP** – Grant Baker, Sr., Fannin County
- RHP/1B** – RJ Banton, Sr., Union County
- 1B/3B** – Connor Bearden, Sr., Dawson County
- OF** – Candler Colwell, Sr., Union County
- LHP/OF** – Luke Cooper, Sr., East Hall
- OF** – Levi Crocker, Sr., East Hall
- C** – Charlie Erickson, Sr., North Hall
- RHP/1B** – Sam Johnson, Sr., Greater Atlanta Christian
- RHP/INF/OF** – Chandler Kendall, Jr., Fannin County
- INF** – Shane Lussier, Jr., Greater Atlanta Christian
- RHP/INF** – Reese Olson, Sr., North Hall
- RHP/U** – Trevor Rider, Jr., East Hall
- OF/LHP** – Hudson Sapp, So., Dawson County
- SS** – Palmer Sapp, Sr., Dawson County
- LHP/OF** – Will Shirah, Sr., Fannin County
- 2B** – Nate Sorrells, Sr., Dawson County
- C/3B** – Carson Taylor, Sr., Greater Atlanta Christian

DAWSON COUNTY TIGERS

Head Coach: Dwayne Sapp

Assistant Coach (s): Tyler Baker, Kevin Grigsby, Gary Wilson

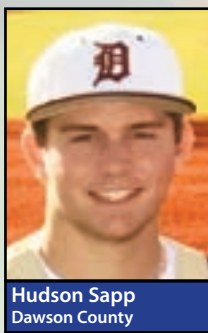
2017 Record: 21-10

Returning Starters: SS Palmer Sapp (Sr., 5-10, 165, R/R); 1B/3B Connor Bearden (Sr., 6-1, 190, R/R); OF/LHP Hudson Sapp (So., 5-11, 190, L/L); 2B Nate Sorrells (Sr., 5-9, 155, L/R)

Other Returning Players: OF/1B Hunter Barron (So., 6-3, 170, L/R); C Bo Lewis (So., 5-10, 160, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP Cameron Moore (Jr., 5-11, 165, R/R); OF Kristian Kelley (So., 5-11, 170, R/R); 2B T.J. Allen (So., 5-11, 170, R/R)

Season Outlook: The Tigers have some holes to fill after winning 21 games last season. But Dawson has enough talent to contend for the postseason again. Leading hitter Palmer Sapp (.444 avg., 5 HR, 29 RBIs) returns as well as his younger brother Hudson Sapp. Infielder Connor Bearden (.356 avg., 8 2B, 39 RBIs) also returns to spark the offense.



Hudson Sapp
Dawson County

EAST HALL VIKINGS

Head Coach: Eric Fowler

Assistant Coach (s): Joey Rider, Jimmy Byers

2017 Record: 10-17

Returning Starters: LHP/OF Luke Cooper (Sr., 5-10, 160, L/L); OF Levi Crocker (Sr., 5-10, 170, R/R); C Mike Matoska (Jr., 5-10, 200, R/R); RHP/U Trey Campbell (Sr., 6-0, 170, R/R); RHP/U Trevor Rider (Jr., 6-1, 160, L/R); OF/1B Tripp Rider (Sr., 5-11, 190, R/R) RHP/3B Luke

Holtzclaw (Jr., 5-11, 180, R/R); RHP/2B T.J. Smith (So., 5-7, 120, R/R); RHP/OF Taylor Smith (So., 5-7, 120, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Dylan Day (Sr., 5-11, 160, R/R); OF Josh Median (So., 5-10, 160, R/R); OF Will Buffington (Sr., 6-0, 160, R/R)

Season Outlook: The Vikings made positive strides in 2017. East Hall looks to keep moving forward this spring. Eight starters are back, including outfielder Levi Crocker (.312 avg., 4 2B). Pitcher/outfielder Luke Cooper seeks a strong return after being injured last year. Keep an eye on pitcher/utility Trevor Rider, who was promising as a sophomore last year.

FANNIN COUNTY REBELS

Head Coach: Jon Ayres

Assistant Coach (s): Travis Stone, Cline Bowers, Noah O'Neal

2017 Record: 15-15

Returning Starters: LHP/OF Will Shirah (Sr., 6-2, 190, B/L); RHP/OF Garrett Rogers (Sr., 5-11, 150, R/R); INF/OF Grant Baker (Sr., 5-10, 160, R/R); C/INF Jack Gobble (Sr., 5-11, 175, R/R); RHP/INF/OF Chandler Kendall (Jr., 5-11, 185, R/R); RHP/INF Tyler Norton (Jr., 5-9, 165, R/R); INF Hunter Gray (Jr., 6-1, 220, R/R); C/OF Drew Foresman (Sr., 5-7, 150, R/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP/INF Dylan Walton (Jr., 6-0, 170, R/R); C Cole Earls (Sr., 5-10, 220, R/R); LHP/OF Carson Beavers (So., 6-0, 145, R/L); RHP/INF Blake Rogers (So., 6-3, 180, R/R); RHP/INF Gabe Buchanan (So., 6-3, 170, L/R); RHP/INF Matthew Shirah (So., 6-4, 180, R/R); RHP/INF Miles Johnson (So., 6-6, 240, R/R)

Top Newcomers: 1B/OF Cody Jacobs (Sr., 6-2, 205, R/R); RHP/INF Brady Martin (Fr., 5-11, 160, R/R)

Season Outlook: Eight starters return for Fannin County who will be expected to contend for the postseason this spring. The Rebels return one of the state's top pitching prospects in Will Shirah (5-3, 2.05 ERA). Pitchers Grant Baker and Chandler Kendall also return, while catcher Jack Gobble is back to lead the offense.



Chandler Kendall
Fannin

GREATER ATLANTA CHRISTIAN SPARTANS

Head Coach: Robbie Wilson

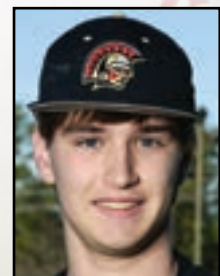
Assistant Coach (s): Josh Lee, Matt Price

2017 Record: 25-11

Returning Starters: C/3B Carson Taylor (Sr., 5-11, 190, B/R); 1B Campbell Pryor (Sr., 6-0, 175, L/R); INF Shane Lussier (Jr., 5-10, 170, L/R); RHP/INF Sam Johnson (Sr., 5-11, 180, R/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP/INF Jack Coyle (Sr., 5-9, 155, R/R); LHP Presley Field (Jr., 6-1, 170, L/L); LHP/OF Bryceton Payne (So., 5-9, 150, R/L); RHP/INF Harrison Stogner (Jr., 6-0, 185, L/R); RHP/OF Zac Mixon (So., 5-10, 155, R/R)

Season Outlook: The Spartans have some holes to fill to approach last year's success. Catcher/third baseman Carson Taylor (.424 avg., 51 RBIs) and junior infielder Shane Lussier return to lead the offense, while Sam Johnson (4-1, 2.80 ERA) returns to lead a young but talented pitching rotation.



Sam Johnson
Greater Atlanta Christian



Shane Lussier
Greater Atlanta Christian



Carson Taylor
Greater Atlanta Christian

LUMPKIN COUNTY INDIANS

Head Coach: Dustin Allen

Survey not returned

NORTH HALL TROJANS

Head Coach: Trevor Flow (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Wesley Crow, Chris Curtis, Trey Pinson, Dacen Cash, Tim Nunez

2017 Record: 29-11

Returning Starters: RHP/INF Reese Olson (Sr., 6-1, 165, R/R); C Charlie Erickson (Sr., 5-9, 185, R/R); OF David Seavey (Jr., 6-0, 175, R/R); OF/LHP Caleb Clark (Jr., 6-0, 165, L/L)

Other Returning Players: INF Caleb Wiley (Jr., 5-9, 160, R/R); OF/RHP Dylan Wiley (Jr., 5-9, 170, R/R); OF Harrison Brown (Jr., 5-8, 170, R/R); RHP Mark Swett (Sr., 5-9, 180, R/R); INF/RHP/C Tyler Brooks (So., 6-1, 175, R/R); OF Weston Davis (Sr., 5-7, 165, R/R); C/INF Caden Bales (So., 5-9, 175, L/R); RHP/INF Kelton Kieschnick (Jr., 6-3, 160, R/R)

Season Outlook: Former assistant Trevor Flow takes over for the defending Class 3A champions. Some key positions have to be filled but there is plenty of young talent. The good news is that all-state pitcher Reese Olson (13-1, 1.40 ERA) and catcher Charlie Erickson return.



Reese Olson
North Hall

UNION COUNTY PANTHERS

Head Coach: Robby Roxbury

Assistant Coach (s): Mark Vaughn, Wade Hodges, Brock Gordon, Zack Odom

2017 Record: 10-14

Returning Starters: SS Patrick Baggett (Sr., 5-9, 145, B/R); RHP/1B RJ Banton (Sr., 6-1, 205, L/R); CF Candler Colwell (Sr., 6-1, 155, R/R); 3B Crawford Colwell (Sr., 6-1, 160, R/R); LHP/RF Cole Davis (Sr., 6-0, 160, L/L); 1B/RHP Coleson Daniel (Jr., 5-10, 220, R/R); RHP Del Ruff (Sr., 5-9, 200, R/R); LHP/OF Ean Harkins (Jr., 6-0, 160, L/L); OF Hunter Kelley (Jr., 5-9, 155, L/L); INF Alec Scott (Jr., 5-9, 140, R/L); INF Logan Dyer (Sr., 5-9, 160, R/R); RHP Jackson Colwell (Jr., 6-1, 165, R/R); RHP Cayden Rich (So., 6-0, 160, R/R); C Carter Wright (So., 5-8, 155, R/R)

Other Returning Players: LHP/OF Pierson Allison (So., 6-1, 155, R/R); C Alec Youngblood (So., 5-8, 165, R/R); INF John Mancuso (So., 5-6, 135, R/R); OF Jonathan Everett (Jr., 5-9, 165, R/R)

Season Outlook: A wealth of talent returns for Union County who should improve and contend for a postseason berth. Senior RJ Banton returns after leading the team at the plate last season. Shortstop Patrick Baggett is also back. Look for a solid group of juniors and sophomores to step forward.



REGION 8-3A

Region Favorite: Morgan County

Players to Watch

RHP/INF – Jacob Adams, Jr., Monroe Area

SS – Chandler Byron, Jr., Monroe Area

SS – Hunter Christian, Sr., Morgan County

OF/INF/RHP – Jacob Davis, Jr., Franklin County

1B – Dax Edwards, Sr., Hart County

CF/RHP – Jaron Ferguson, Jr., Morgan County

3B/RHP – Luke Hadden, Sr., East Jackson

2B – Colman Hill, Sr., Franklin County

SS – Zac Hill, Sr., Franklin County

INF/RHP – Hunter Lane, Jr., Morgan County

OF – CJ Sanford, Sr., Hart County

INF/RHP – Ethan Stamps, So., Morgan County

C – Logan Stockton, Jr., Jackson County

RHP – Blake Wehunt, Jr., Franklin County

RHP/INF – Reece Whitworth, Sr., Hart County

EAST JACKSON EAGLES

Head Coach: Tedd Sims

Assistant Coach (s): Caleb Hardy, Drew Morris, Bucky Sorrow, Shawn Lindsey

2017 Record: 4-26

Returning Starters: 1B Nick Clapper (Sr., 6-0, 180, R/L); 2B Wes Bruce (Sr., 5-10, 170, R/R); SS Brian Puckett (Sr., 5-11, 175, R/R); 3B/RHP Luke Hadden (Sr., 6-2, 205, R/R); OF/C Jake Varner (So., 6-0, 190, R/R); OF Caleb Adair (So., 5-10, 175, R/R); OF/C Patrick Madden (Sr., 5-11, 185, R/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP/OF Josh Compton (So., 5-10, 175, L/R); OF Jacob Maxwell (Sr., 5-9, 185, R/R); OF Bryson Beck (Jr., 5-11, 175, R/R); OF/RHP Josiah Stansell (So., 5-10, 170, R/R); INF/RHP Zach Howington (Sr., 5-10, 190, R/R)

Top Newcomers: SS/RHP Halton Hardy (So., 5-10, 180, R/R)

Season Outlook: A strong corps of returning players are back for East Jackson, who should contend for a postseason berth. The Eagles have enough talent to make a run at the playoffs. Seven starters are back, including third baseman/pitcher Luke Hadden. Seniors Brian Puckett, Patrick Madden and Nick Clapper also return.

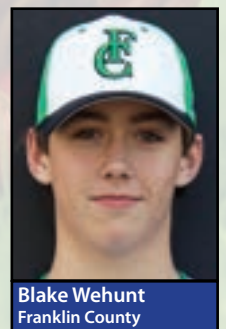
FRANKLIN COUNTY LIONS

Head Coach: Frank Vashaw

Assistant Coach (s): DeMond Rivers, Ryan Phillips, Michael Ritcey, Jeff McCall

2017 Record: 20-11

Returning Starters: SS Zac Hill (Sr., 5-10, 160, R/R); 2B Colman Hill (Sr., 5-9, 150, R/R); INF/OF/RHP Landon Bentley (Sr., 5-11, 165, L/R); C/RHP Grayson York (Sr., 5-10, 170, R/R); RHP Blake Wehunt (Jr., 6-3, 190, R/R); 3B/RHP Landon Hall (Sr., 5-10, 165, R/R); OF Walker Dunn (Sr., 5-10, 160, B/R); OF/INF/RHP Jacob Davis (Jr., 5-10, 155, R/R)



Blake Wehunt
Franklin County

Other Returning Players: 1B Brannon Hambrick (Sr., 6-2, 175, R/R); OF Hunter Carson (Sr., 5-11, 160, R/R); OF Bryson Roberts (Sr., 5-9, 165, R/R); INF Bo Morgan (Jr., 5-8, 150, R/R); C Lucas Emmons (Jr., 5-10, 165, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP/C Eli Roach (So., 5-11, 190, R/R); INF/RHP Mike Miller (So., 5-10, 180, R/R); RHP/OF Seth Holcomb (So., 5-10, 160, R/R); INF Hunter Quarles (So., 5-10, 155, R/R)

Season Outlook: Look for Franklin County to challenge for the region crown as eight starters are back. Pitcher Blake Wehunt (6-3, 2.73 ERA) returns on the hill after a strong sophomore campaign, while shortstop Zac Hill (.330 avg., 22 RBIs) returns to lead the offense.

HART COUNTY BULLDOGS

Head Coach: Josh Osborne

Assistant Coach (s): Robbie Wilson, Hunter Barton, Raycoyla Morrison, Don McCord, Trae Jones

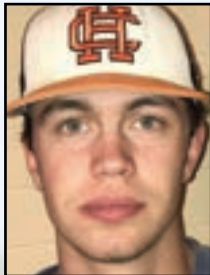
2017 Record: 16-19

Returning Starters: 1B Dax Edwards (Sr., 6-0, 190, L/L); RHP Reece Whitworth (Sr., 6-2, 190, R/R); C Luke Lee (So., 5-10, 180, R/R); OF CJ Sanford (Sr., 5-10, 180, R/R); INF Chase Dalton (So., 5-10, 200, R/R)

Other Returning Players: LHP/OF Eli Jones (Jr., L/L); LHP/OF Ashton Bowen (Sr., R/L); INF Ethan Jones (Jr., R/R); RHP Bradley Williams (Sr., R/R)

Top Newcomers: OF Cane Berrong (Fr., 6-0, 190, R/R); INF Casey Tallent (Fr., 5-10, 180, R/R); INF Gage Skelton (Fr., 5-10, 180, R/R); INF Will Dean (Fr., 5-10, 190, R/L); OF Malichi Thomas (Fr., 6-0, 185, R/R); 1B Brayden Dorsey (So., 6-1, 190, L/L); OF/LHP JP White (Fr., 5-9, 175, L/L)

Season Outlook: Hart started slowly but finished strong last spring to make the state playoffs. Five starters are back, including a talented group of pitchers led by Reece Whitworth and Bradley Williams. Outfielder CJ Sanford and first baseman Dax Edwards return to lead the offense.



Reece Whitworth
Hart County

JACKSON COUNTY PANTHERS

Head Coach: Jonathan Gastley

Assistant Coach (s): Matt Bolt, Joe Laird, Troy McIntyre, Devin Skelton

2017 Record: 18-14

Returning Starters: 1B/RHP Grey Akins (Sr., 6-2, 175, R/R); OF/RHP Paul Foley (Sr., 6-0, 170, R/R); INF Spencer Starkweather (Sr., 5-10, 160, L/R); C Logan Stockton (Jr., 5-9, 170, R/R); RHP/OF Reed Drake (Jr., 5-9, 165, R/R); RHP/INF Tanner Crump (Jr., 6-3, 160, R/R); INF/C Zac Saine (Jr., 5-11, 160, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Lane Sharpton (Sr., 6-0, 160, R/R); U Trenton Smith (Sr., 6-2, 165, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP/INF Landon Youngblood (So., 5-9, 165, R/R); RHP/INF Grant Hardegree (So., 6-0, 170, R/R); OF McKay Melnick (So., 5-10, 165, R/R); RHP/1B Jared Adams (Jr., 6-4, 200, R/R)

Season Outlook: The Panthers lost some firepower from last season. But the good news is that seven starters are back, including a trio of starting seniors – first baseman/pitcher Grey Akins, outfielder/pitcher Paul Foley and infielder Spencer Starkweather. Some talented underclassmen will need to step forward.

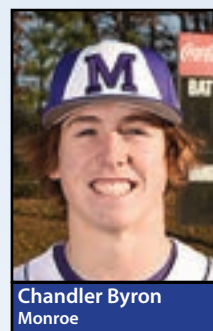
MONROE AREA HURRICANES

Head Coach: Chad Kitchens

Assistant Coach (s): Josh Stephens, Kyle Hamby, Chris Parker, Michael Young, Max Gaubert, Blake McCullers

2017 Record: 14-16

Returning Starters: C/1B Grant Olson (Jr., 5-10, 150, L/R); RHP/1B/3B Jacob Adams (Jr., 6-0, 190, R/R); RHP/2B Cody Aukes (Sr., 5-9, 180, R/R); SS Chandler Byron (Jr., 6-2, 200, R/R); 3B/RHP Brannon Jones (Jr., 6-1, 180, R/R); RHP/OF Colton Farris (Sr., 6-0, 180, R/R)



Chandler Byron
Monroe

Other Returning Players: SS/2B Collin Bailey (Jr., 5-9, 140, R/R); OF Brandon Moody (So., 5-9, 140, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP/OF Ethan Phelps (Sr., 6-1, 170, R/R); LHP/OF Avery Pittman (Jr., 6-3, 200, L/L); RHP/1B Caleb Young (Jr., 6-1, 210, R/R); OF Chase Brown (Jr., 6-1, 200, L/L); RHP/OF Cody Wright (Jr., 5-10, 160, R/R)

Season Outlook: Monroe Area made some positive strides last season and should pick up from where they left off. Six starters are back, including pitcher/outfielder Colton Farris, junior pitcher/infielder Jacob Adams and junior shortstop Chandler Byron. Monroe hopes incoming transfer Ethan Phelps will help out.

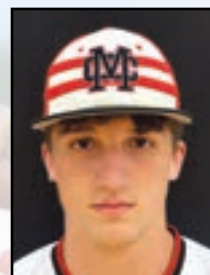
MORGAN COUNTY BULLDOGS

Head Coach: Merritt Ainslie

Assistant Coach (s): Crandall Stamps

2017 Record: 25-8

Returning Starters: INF/RHP Ethan Stamps (So., 5-10, 190, R/R); INF/RHP Hunter Lane (Jr., 5-11, 185, L/R) CF/RHP Jaron Ferguson (Jr., 6-1, 195, R/R); OF/RHP Jacob Anderson (Jr., 6-4, 180,



Jaron Ferguson
Morgan County



Hunter Lane
Morgan County

R/R); 1B/RHP Grant Cofer (Sr., 6-4, 215, R/R); INF Hunter Christian (Sr., 5-10, 155, R/R); OF/RHP Trey Patterson (Sr., 6-3, 205, R/R)

Other Returning Players: C Hunter Middlebrooks (Jr., 5-10, 165, R/R); INF Dominic Arienzo (So., 5-9, 145, R/R); 1B Brandyn Batchelor (So., 6-3, 215, R/R); RHP Carter Kirkpatrick (Sr., 5-10, 150, R/R); C Blake Silvey (Jr., 6-0, 180, R/R); OF AJ Stinnett (Sr., 5-6, 140, L/R); OF Bryson Burke (Sr., 5-7, 140, R/R); INF/RHP Eric Brockman (Sr., 5-8, 145, R/R); OF Kierron Farley (So., 5-7, 155, R/R); OF Drei Waszgis (Sr., 5-11, 180, R/R)



Ethan Stamps
Morgan County

Season Outlook: Morgan County won the Region 8-AAA title last season, and the Bulldogs should be expected to pick up from where they left off last season. Morgan returns a good mixture of seniors and juniors. Ethan Stamps returns after a strong freshman campaign. Juniors Jaron Ferguson and Hunter Lane also return after solid seasons in 2017.

Sunbelt Classic still big for college recruiting

Team Georgia annually plays in the tournament

By Tim Morse

MCALESTER, Oklahoma -- A large contingent of college coaches and recruiters gather in the small seating area behind home plate at Mike Deak Field to watch the baseball games in the 23rd annual Junior Sunbelt Classic.

Although there is a radar clocking each pitcher's speed on top of the third base dugout, these coaches don't pull out their radar guns. Instead, they scribble notes on their clipboard.

Coaches from Kansas, Colorado, Air Force, Brigham Young, Hawaii, Mississippi State, Tennessee and a wealth of junior college coaches watch Team Georgia meet Team Texas in one of 10 games played during a six-day span.

National championship coach Tim Corbin of Vanderbilt is a regular here. So is Auburn coach Butch Thompson.

These coaches don't have any complaints about recruiting travel ball showcases. However, they annually attend the Sunbelt Classic to scout the talent.

Rusty McNamara was the MVP of the 1993 Sunbelt Classic and is now an assistant coach at Hawaii. He knows the amount of quality players the Sunbelt Classic brings in each year.

"Too many times when we go out and recruit, we're watching showcase ponies," McNamara said. "I'm sure a lot of these kids have partaken in that type of stuff, but to see them come together as a

state, as a unit and just go out and compete and try to win a ball game here, you see a lot more intensity out of the players.

"There is a little more emotion and I think it gives you a better feel for what they are like as a baseball player and how they handle the adversity and how they handle success. Sometimes I think you go out to Arizona to these showcases where there are just 100 games going on at once and you don't really see the excited emotion and the success, and you don't really see the guys have to deal with the adversity because there are no stats, no records. It's just here's my tools and ability."

Professional stars have played in tournament

Team Georgia is basically a high school all-star team of the top rising seniors. They are nominated by their coaches, selected and spend a week in McAlester, Oklahoma playing as many as two games per day.

The Sunbelt Classic helped a number of Georgia players gain notoriety. Former Atlanta Braves catcher Brian McCann played in the tournament, as well as All-Star catcher Buster Posey of the San Francisco Giants. Former Lowndes High star Stephen Drew and former Calhoun infielder Charlie Culberson, both in the majors, played in the tourney. Former Oconee County standout Adam Frazier said he owes a lot of his success to Team Georgia. Frazier, now starting at second base for the Pittsburgh Pirates, played in the Sunbelt Classic as a junior.

continued on page 92

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He got noticed by Thompson, then an assistant at Mississippi State, in the 2009 tournament. Frazier played in Starkville, Miss., then got drafted in the sixth round in the 2013 Major League Baseball Amateur Draft.



Team Georgia's Jack Haney, left, is greeted by Kyle Martin after Haney hit a homer in last year's tourney.

He made his debut with the Pirates in the summer of 2016.

"When we were out there, there was anywhere from 30-50 schools watching every game," Frazier said. "Would I do it again? Absolutely. I can't tell you enough about what playing for Team Georgia did for me. I was certainly blessed to be a part it."

A handful of Major League Baseball's young players also played in McAlester. Former Appling County star Byron Buxton is now playing for the Minnesota Twins. So is former Heritage-Conyers standout Tyler Austin, who made his debut with the New York Yankees in 2016.

And former Loganville power-hitter Clint Frazier, who is one of the Yankees' top farm prospects, played in the Sunbelt Classic.

"This is a good event to cover," said Kansas assistant coach Ryan Graves, who estimates he has signed more than 10 players from the Sunbelt Classic.

"You get to see them for seven days ... you get to see them in several games. You get to see them against high-caliber arms. When you go to some of those national showcases, you may see a couple of at bats and you don't get to see those kids game after game. It's a good chance to see them game after game and I like to see them play for something. When you are watching arms, you're watching people get outs. In the travel ball deal, they may be in there for two innings to try and light up a (radar) gun."

Getting offers

Team Georgia finished fifth in the 10-team tournament in 2017. However, a wealth of players received college offers. Charlton County pitcher Jack Gowen had received offers from in-state schools such as Mercer, Georgia State and Georgia Southern. After his performance in a loss to Team Texas, he added several more offers, some from as far away as Kansas and Hawaii.

Colquitt County infielder Gavin Patel didn't have any offers before attending the Sunbelt Classic. After his early play in the tournament, Patel had a handful of offers.

But McNamara, who played collegiately at Oklahoma State and spent time in the Phillies and Braves' organizations, said he likes the concept of players playing for a team rather than playing for themselves.



Team Georgia's Jared Soliz throws against Team Tennessee in the Sunbelt Classic last year.

"You're playing for something, you're playing for a group of guys," McNamara said. "I think it's kind of a no-brainer to come out here. But I understand what families think, what finances they pay with all the showcase stuff.

"But take a two-week break out of that for what I find to be more real and invaluable. There are college coaches out here for a reason. We're looking for players and we want real players who can compete. And that's hard to find in a lot of places and for people to understand, 'Can a kid compete?'"

Newnan High's Will Wilbanks liked the opportunities the Sunbelt Classic presented.

"It's some of the best talent I've ever played against," he said. "There are a bunch of scouts here. I really recommend it."

While the week may be grueling for players and coaches, the exposure is invaluable.

"The biggest thing was our kids had a chance to come out here and perform in front of a lot of good competition," said Bowdon coach Todd Eubanks, one of five who coached Team Georgia in 2017.

"We have several kids leaving who have scholarship offers from some major schools that they didn't have before. It was a great opportunity for them, great opportunity for our state to display the talent we have. So all in all, it was a good week for us."



Scouts from several Division I colleges scout the Sunbelt Classic last summer.

Getting over the hump

Jeff Davis wins first state title

By Tim Morse

Paul Glass felt pretty good. In fact, he felt like his team had a chance to make a deep postseason run. The pitching rotation was going to be strong, the defense was going to be a team strength and Glass believed Jeff Davis was going to be decent at the plate.

But then things went downhill quickly. It started during the fall when an MRI revealed senior standout Jordan Dubberly, one of the team's top returning pitchers, cleanup hitter and shortstop, had a labrum tear.

After a series of phone calls, Dubberly's mom was able to get him to see famed orthopedic specialist Dr. James Andrews in Pensacola. Dubberly had surgery and underwent extensive rehabilitation. Glass expected his senior to be out for the season.

Glass moved Garrett Baucom to shortstop and the team began to develop more pitchers. Cody Ogilvie was arguably the team's No. 1 starter, then Ryan Sellers was No. 2. The team still had Justin Kight and promising starter Chandler Davenport helped ease some of the burden left by Dubberly.

Then shortly after the season started, Jeff Davis coaches noticed something different about Kight. The pitcher, known for his command, couldn't seem to throw strikes and he often talked about dizziness and nausea. Tests later revealed he had chiari malformation, an open base skull injury where the spinal cord connects to the brain.

His condition could only be corrected by surgery.

Then a few games later, designated hitter Hogan White suffered a knee injury and had to miss several games.

"At that point we were kind of wondering what else was going to go wrong," senior outfielder Hunter Foster said.

Glass and most of the team believed the turning point came when Ogilvie's father, who had coached many of the players in recreation baseball, huddled the team together behind the dugout after a game against Vidalia and had prayer.

Several younger players started to develop such as Alex Sanders and Kendall Sellers, and Josh McEachin stepped up and played a valuable role. Then pitcher Ross Rush stepped into a closer role on the mound.

"We started playing a little better, developed some hitters and started to find our identity," Glass said. "Many guys found their roles and they embraced it."

The Jackets won 15 of their next 18, including a sweep of long-time region nemesis Benedictine to win the Region 2-2A title. Then Jeff Davis swept Screven County, Social Circle, Rockmart, Toombs County and Elbert County in the state playoffs to win the school's first state title and finish at 33-8.

"There were a few goals we set," Ogilvie said. "The main thing we really wanted was to beat Benedictine and capture the state championship."

To make things even better, Dubberly couldn't pitch, but he worked his way back into the lineup as a designated hitter late in the season. White also returned and played first base, giving the Yellow Jackets' offense a boost. Dubberly even played some at first base and recorded the final out of the season, a 5-3 putout to clinch the state championship.

Jeff Davis finished as the state runner-up in 2004. But in 2017, Glass wanted the entire community and former alumni to enjoy the title.

"We had our hearts broken so much and played for it in 2004 ... I wondered sometimes if we'd ever get over the hump," Glass said. "But I remember that bus ride back to Hazlehurst from Savannah. I wanted that bus to go about five was something."

So was Jeff Davis' state championship run.



Jeff Davis pitcher Cody Ogilvie throws in a game against Benedictine last season.

Photo by Tim Morse



Members of the Jeff Davis team are, **Front Row** (left to right), Coach Roger Metts, Hunter Foster, Garrett Baucom, Caleb Leggett, Kendall Sellers, Tanner Thrash, Hogan White, Cody Ogilvie, Josh McEachin, Ryan Sellers, Justin Kight, Jordan Dubberly, Coach Paul Glass. **Back Row** (left to right), Coach Steven Wilcox, Seth Graham, Cristian Torres, Ryan Rush, Britt Metts, Garrison Miles, Ross Rush, Caleb Parlor, Kameron McNure, Will Moseley, Chandler Davenport, Austin Lewis, Colby Marchant, Alex Sanders, Caleb Chaney, Coach Jeff McGowan, Coach Sidney Spell

Photo by Jeff Davis High School



Jeff Davis' Austin Lewis (13) is congratulated by Chandler Davenport (9) after scoring a run in a game last year.

Photo by Tim Morse



Jeff Davis players celebrate after defeating Elbert County to win the state baseball championship at Grayson Stadium in Savannah.

Photo by Jeff Davis High School

Class 2A Top 15



JEFF DAVIS

The Yellow Jackets broke through last year to capture their first state baseball championship in school history after getting close in so many previous seasons. Jeff Davis may not have the starting pitching it did last season, but the Jackets will have enough to make another solid postseason run.

The team will miss ace Cody Ogilvie, who was the Georgia Dugout Preview Magazine's Class 2A Player of the Year as well as all-state performer Ryan Sellers. But the Jackets do have lefty Ross Rush who played an integral role in the team's run last season. All-state performers Alex Sanders and Chandler Davenport can also pitch, while a wealth of talent from the program's sub-varsity teams will be looking for their chance at the spotlight.

Offensively, the team may have to score enough runs early so its pitching rotation can mature. Davenport, Seth Graham and Garrett Baucom return in the infield, while two of the state's top outfielders in Alex Sanders and Hunter Foster bring hot bats as well as strong defense.

Don't look for Jeff Davis to drop off anytime soon



BLECKLEY COUNTY

The Royals have all the ingredients to make a run at a state championship - dominant pitching, excellent hitting and solid defense. All-state performer Carter Raffield and Shayne Cannon head up a strong pitching staff, while Chandler Abney and Cody Dennis lead a solid offense. Plus, Bleckley County has a heavy senior class.



THOMASVILLE

This could be Thomasville's best season since the Bulldogs won the Class 2A state title in 1999. This senior group has been playing together for many seasons, and the team has enough talent to make a run at a title. Leading hitters Hayden Donalson and JT Rice and top pitcher Buck Bennett return. While the senior class is strong, some underclassmen will help make the Bulldogs state contenders.



ROCKMART

The Jackets could be on the verge of something special after making it to the third round of the state playoffs last year. Rockmart's senior class is small, but a talented corps of underclassmen will help the Jackets contend again. This program looks to be set for the next several seasons with strong younger players.



BENEDICTINE

The Cadets were uncharacteristically swept in the second round of the state playoffs last season. However, Benedictine will be back this spring. Seven starters are back, including standout pitcher Walker Barlow and offensive leaders John Thorpe and Johnny Richardson. The pitching rotation must perform more consistently.



SOCIAL CIRCLE

The Redskins won't be sneaking up on anybody this spring, and they could potentially have their best team in at least a decade. The roster is loaded with a mixture of talent after Social Circle played eventual Class 2A state champion Jeff Davis tough in the second round last year. Keep an eye on this program.



DODGE COUNTY

This will be Dodge County's best season in quite some time. If the Indians can find some more arms to compliment right-hander Tyler Pruet, they could make a very deep run. The offense will be explosive as Pruet, catcher Chandler Davis and first baseman Chip Burch return.



BERRIEN

After falling in the second round of the state playoffs last season, look for Berrien to make a return this spring. Nine starters are back, including pitchers Darius Tisby and Brock Jewell. Meanwhile, all-state performer Tucker Karvonen and catcher Rhett Thomason lead an offense capable of doing big things. The Rebels have enough firepower to contend for the Region 1-2A title.



CALLAWAY

The Cavaliers lost some firepower from last season, but Callaway has enough returners to make another run at the postseason. Chandler Lott and Kyle Campbell will keep the Cavaliers in the postseason chase. A wealth of underclassmen will also help.



HEARD COUNTY

The Braves lost a wealth of talent from last season's team that made the second round of the state playoffs. Graduation left Heard County with some big shoes to fill. The cupboard is not exactly bare, but some underclassmen will need to step forward and mature. If that happens, the Braves could make another deep postseason run.



ELBERT COUNTY

Graduation took a bite out of the defending Class 2A state runner-ups. There are some leftovers from last year such as pitcher/first baseman Daniel Lavender who played a key role for the Blue Devils as a pitcher. But most of the talent are underclassmen. If they can mature quickly, look for Elbert to contend for the Region 8-2A crown.



FITZGERALD

The Purple Hurricanes aren't short on talent and a solid senior class will keep them in the hunt. Fitzgerald will rely heavily on a strong senior class. If the underclassmen develop and mature quickly, the Hurricanes could be trouble in Region 1-2A.



DADE COUNTY

The Wolverines won 19 games last year and made the second round of the state playoffs. Dade County will be back as its top pitcher (Greg Templeton) and top hitter (Jordan Heath) return. A strong senior class will be expected to help the Wolverines contend for the Region 7-2A title.



HARLEM

The Bulldogs didn't win the Region 4-2A title last season and dropped a pair of games to Bacon County in the first round of the state playoffs. Harlem welcomes back seven starters, but veteran leadership will be lacking. The Bulldogs need some underclassmen to mature quickly.



WESTSIDE-AUGUSTA

The Patriots struggled with youth last season and finished an uncharacteristic 15-14. They played a wealth of underclassmen which should pay off this season. Westside is still a very young team, meaning younger players will need to mature in a hurry.

Others to watch: (Alphabetical Order) Bacon County, Chattooga, Coosa, Jordan, Laney, Pepperell, Rabun County, Toombs County

CLASS 2A PRESEASON ALL STATE

First Team

Name	Position	Grade	School	Comment
Chandler Ball	Pitcher	Junior	Social Circle	Quietly does his job
Walker Barlow	Pitcher	Senior	Benedictine	Tough guy to hit
Buck Bennett	Pitcher	Senior	Thomasville	Opponents can't do much against him
Daniel Lavender	Pitcher	Junior	Elbert County	He can carry the load
Chandler Lott	Pitcher	Senior	Callaway	There's not much he can't do
Carter Raffield	Pitcher	Senior	Bleckley County	Big guy commands respect
Greg Templeton	Pitcher	Senior	Dade County	Can be lethal on the mound
Chandler Davis	Catcher	Senior	Dodge County	As good as there is
Jordan Heath	Catcher	Senior	Dade County	Region 7-2A Offensive POY
Chandler Davenport	Infielder	Senior	Jeff Davis	Does little of everything
Hayden Donalson	Infielder	Senior	Thomasville	Can hit for contact or power
Seth Graham	Infielder	Senior	Jeff Davis	Not much gets past him
Tucker Karvonen	Infielder	Senior	Berrien	Makes a lot happen
JT Rice	Infielder	Senior	Thomasville	Two-sport standout is tough
Wesley Wade	Infielder	Junior	Pepperell	Good all-around player
Ethan Dodd	Outfielder	Senior	Westside-Augusta	Just puts the ball in play
Hunter Foster	Outfielder	Senior	Jeff Davis	Excellent hitter with a cannon arm
Kole Holder	Outfielder	Senior	Rockmart	Leader on very good team
Alex Sanders	Outfielder	Senior	Jeff Davis	Speedster also a strong hitter
Harrison Stewart	Outfielder	Sophomore	Thomasville	Will keep improving
John Kropaczewski	Designated Hitter	Senior	Jordan	Versatile standout is tough
Tyler Pruett	Utility	Senior	Dodge County	Strong hitter and pitcher

Second Team

Pitchers – Shayne Cannon, Sr., Bleckley County; Ty Floyd, So., Rockmart; Corey Hays, Sr., Social Circle; Brock Jewell, Sr., Berrien; Ross Rush, Sr., Jeff Davis; Caleb Shiflett, Sr., Coosa; Dale Thornhill, So., Heard County; **Catchers** – Dylan Bailey, Jr., Rockmart; Rhett Thomason, Sr., Berrien; **Infielders** – Peyton Adams, So., Elbert County; Chip Burch, Sr., Dodge County; David House, Jr., Social Circle; Bryan Jones, Sr., Heard County; Johnny Richardson, Sr., Benedictine; Parker Zolt, Sr., Thomasville; **Outfielders** – Cole Allen, Sr., Chattooga; Garrett Baucom, Sr., Jeff Davis; Qua Harper, Sr., Fitzgerald; Trevor Thomas, Sr., Pepperell; John Thorpe, Sr., Benedictine; **Designated Hitter** – Chandler Abney, Sr., Bleckley County; **Utility** – Kyle Campbell, Sr., Callaway

REGION 1-2A

Region Favorite: Thomasville

Players to Watch

RHP – Buck Bennett, Sr., Thomasville
OF – Jimmy Cipriani, Jr., Thomasville
INF – Hayden Donalson, Sr., Thomasville
OF – Qua Harper, Sr., Fitzgerald
SS/RHP – Jacques Jackson, Jr., Brooks County
RHP/3B – Luke Jester, Jr., Early County
RHP/2B – Brock Jewell, Sr., Berrien
RHP/3B – Mason Johns, Sr., Early County
SS – Tucker Karvonen, Sr., Berrien
OF – Kody Krause, Jr., Fitzgerald
3B/RHP – Bubba Newell, Jr., Fitzgerald
SS/RHP – Mac Perry, Sr., Brooks County
C/1B – Callen Ray, Sr., Fitzgerald
INF – JT Rice, Sr., Thomasville
U – Harrison Stewart, So., Thomasville
C/RHP – Rhett Thomason, Sr., Berrien
RHP/OF – Darius Tisby, Sr., Berrien
OF – Parker Zolt, Sr., Thomasville

BERRIEN REBELS

Head Coach: Doug Nix

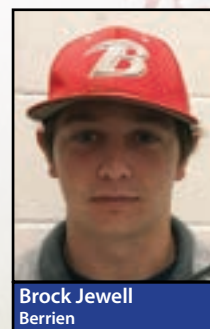
Assistant Coach (s):
 Calem Ray, Rusty Harris,
 Adam Haire

2017 Record: 22-12

Returning Starters:
 SS Tucker Karvonen
 (Sr., 6-1, 215, R/R); RHP/
 OF Darius Tisby (Sr.,
 6-4, 185, R/R); C Rhett
 Thomason (Sr., 5-11,
 220, R/R); RHP/2B Brock
 Jewell (Sr., 5-9, 160, R/R);
 3B Dalton Royals (Sr.,
 5-10, 180, R/R); OF/INF
 Griffin Rowe (So., 5-6,
 145, R/R); OF Tanner
 Adams (Jr., 6-2, 180, R/R);
 1B Justin Roberts (Sr.,
 6-0, 195, L/L); OF Brady
 Young (Sr., 6-2, 175, L/L)

Other Returning

Players: INF Daniel Griffin (Jr., 5-10, 155, R/R); RHP/OF Tunner Taylor



Brock Jewell
Berrien



Tucker Karvonen
Berrien



Rhett Thomason
Berrien



Darius Tisby
Berrien

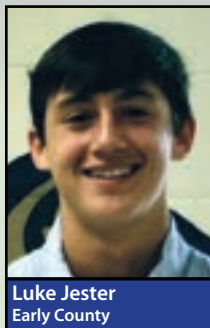
(Sr., 6-0, 160, R/R); 2B Jacob Bennett (Jr., 6-0, 160, R/R); OF Hunter McKinnon (Jr., 5-9, 175, R/R); C/OF Hayden Woody (So., 5-9, 180, R/R)
Top Newcomers: INF/OF Michael Tucker (Fr., 5-10, 175, R/R)
Season Outlook: Berrien will contend for the region crown this spring. A wealth of returning talent, including a heavy-laden senior class, will help the Rebels. All-state shortstop Tucker Karvonen (.392 avg., 33 RBIs) and catcher Rhett Thomason return on offense, while pitchers Darius Tisby and Brock Jewell lead a solid rotation.

BROOKS COUNTY TROJANS

Head Coach: Josh Price (new)
Assistant Coach (s): Troy Gay
2017 Record: 4-24
Returning Starters: 1B Donnie Sloan (Jr., R/R); 2B/RHP Randall Smith (Jr., R/R); OF/LHP Tyger Reynolds (So., R/L); 3B/RHP Alex Munoz (So., R/R); SS/RHP Jacquez Jackson (Jr., R/R); SS/RHP Mac Perry (Sr., R/R); C Raul Mezquital (Jr., R/R)
Other Returning Players: OF Lewis Lopez (Sr., R/R); C JJ Lanier (So., R/R); 1B Trent Williford (Jr., R/R); OF Tayvion Gray (Jr., R/R); OF Drew Jones (Jr., R/R)
Top Newcomers: OF/RHP Dylan Marshall (Fr., R/R); OF Ernest Whitfield (So., R/R); 3B/RHP Coleman Lanier (Fr., R/R)
Season Outlook: New coach Josh Price takes over and inherits seven returning starters as the Trojans seek to turn things around. The senior class is small and the bulk of the team are either juniors or sophomores. Shortstop/pitcher Mac Perry and infielder/pitcher Jacquez Jackson return to lead the way.

EARLY COUNTY BOBCCATS

Head Coach: Chris Lamb
Assistant Coach (s): Shawn Gilmer, Ed Norman, John Felch
2017 Record: 8-20
Returning Starters: RHP/3B Mason Johns (Sr., 6-2, 220, B/R); C Tate Norman (Sr., 5-7, 150, L/R); 2B Randy Hudson (Sr., 5-9, 150, R/R); SS Collins McClendon (So., 5-10, 160, R/R); RHP/3B Luke Jester (Jr., 6-5, 190, R/R); OF Raekwon McNair (Sr., 5-9, 165, L/L); OF Ryan Kennedy (Jr., 5-10, 155, R/R); RHP/1B Max Sealy (Sr., 6-4, 240, R/R)
Other Returning Players: RHP/1B Lee Cresswell (Sr., 6-3, 260, R/R); 2B Wade Glass (Jr., 5-10, 160, R/R); 3B/C Carter Rowland (Jr., 5-9, 165, R/R); OF Mason Smith (Sr., 5-7, 150, R/R); OF Asher White



Luke Jester
Early County



Mason Johns
Early County



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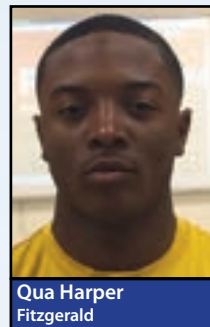
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(So., 5-10, 170, B/B)

Season Outlook: A solid nucleus of talent returns at Early County where the Bobcats should improve upon last year's record. Early should also contend for the playoffs. Senior pitcher Mason Johns leads the pitching rotation. Four other starting seniors – Tate Norman, Randy Hudson, Raekwon McNair and Max Sealy – also return.

FITZGERALD PURPLE HURRICANES

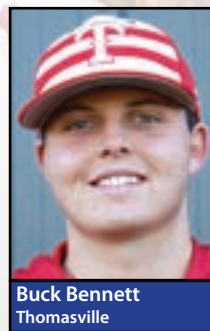
Head Coach: Jason McDonald
Assistant Coach (s): Will Oliver, Luke Rinear, Harvey Taylor
2017 Record: 18-12
Returning Starters: OF Turner Chambliss (Sr., 5-11, 185, R/R); OF/RHP Qua Harper (Sr., 5-8, 170, R/R); SS/RHP Matthew Howell (Sr., 5-8, 165, R/R); C/1B Callen Ray (Sr., 6-3, 200, R/R); OF/RHP Mason Clements (Jr., 6-0, 180, R/R); OF/RHP Kody Krause (Jr., 6-1, 185, L/R); 3B/RHP Bubba Newell (Jr., 6-4, 215, R/R)
Other Returning Players: C/RHP Kyler Boggus (Jr., 6-0, 160, R/R); SS/RHP Braswell Bryant (So., 5-10, 170, R/R); OF Spain Kelly (Jr., 6-0, 175, R/R); 1B/RHP Austin Luke (Jr., 6-0, 210, L/R); OF/RHP Austin Yarbrough (So., 5-9, 165, R/R)
Top Newcomers: OF/RHP Marcus Anderson (Fr., 5-10, 170, R/R); C/RHP Dequavion Harper (Fr., 5-10, 220, R/R); 2B/RHP Pressley Paulk (Fr., 5-8, 165, R/R); SS/RHP Chandler Young (Fr., 5-7, 160, R/R)
Season Outlook: This could potentially be Fitzgerald's best team in three years as the Hurricanes have seven returning starters. Outfielders Qua Harper and Kody Krause and catcher Callen Ray head up what could be a solid offensive attack, while pitcher Bubba Newell leads a talented rotation.



Qua Harper
Fitzgerald

THOMASVILLE BULLDOGS

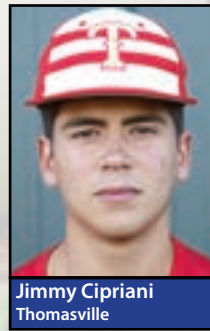
Head Coach: Erik McDougald
Assistant Coach (s): Brice Warner, Daniel Young, Kyle Fiveash, Nathan Espy
2017 Record: 22-12
Returning Starters: U Harrison Stewart (So.); OF Jimmy Cipriani (Jr.); 2B Maylon Cochran (So.); OF Parker Zolt (Sr.); INF Hayden Donalson (Sr.); P Jacob Bradshaw (So.); OF Zeb Maxwell (So.); P Dalton Dollar (Jr.); INF/RHP JT Rice (Sr.); OF/P Jared Smith (Sr.); 1B/RHP Buck Bennett (Sr.); P Harrison Vance (Jr.)
Other Returning Players: C/3B Jay Thomas (So.); OF Tanner Sauls (Sr.); Jess Eason (So.); Miles Green (So.)
Top Newcomers: U Nathan Smith (Fr.); OF/P Hurston Waldrep (So.); 1B/P Conner Morrell (Fr.)



Buck Bennett
Thomasville



Hayden Donalson
Thomasville



Jimmy Cipriani
Thomasville

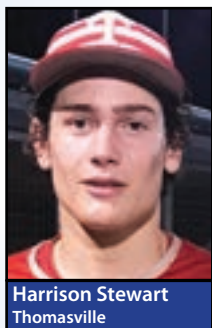


JT Rice
Thomasville

Season Outlook:

Thomasville returns its entire team that made the state quarterfinals in 2017. Look for the Bulldogs to make a strong run, especially with the return of senior standouts Buck Bennett, Hayden Donalson, Parker Zolt and JT Rice.

Harrison Stewart returns after a promising freshman campaign.



Harrison Stewart
Thomasville



Parker Zolt
Thomasville

R/R); C Carson Taylor (Fr., R/R); 1B Dustyn Andrews (Fr., R/R)

Season Outlook: After making a run to the state semifinals last year, Bacon will be rebuilding this season. There are no seniors, but the team is loaded with underclassmen. This team could be tough late in the season. If the Raiders can develop some pitching, they could surprise many this season.

BENEDICTINE CADETS

Head Coach: Kevin Farmer

Assistant Coach (s):

Jack Holland, Kyle Farmer, Drew Schwalbe

2017 Record: 19-13

Returning Starters: OF

John Thorpe (Sr., R/R);

RHP/INF/OF Garrison

Gunby (Sr., R/R); INF/

OF Johnny Richardson

(Sr., R/R); RHP/OF Luke

Smith (Sr., R/R); RHP/

INF Harrison Peebles (Sr., R/R); RHP/INF Luke

Whetstone (Jr., R/R); LHP Walker Barlow (Sr., L/L)

Other Returning Players: OF Jacob Markiton

(Sr., R/R); INF Josh Kindred (Jr., R/R); C Ryan

Pickard (Jr., L/R); RHP/OF Kyle Jackson (Sr., R/R);

INF/OF Garrett Floyd (Sr., R/R)

Top Newcomers: INF/DH Jaden Hardy (So.,

R/R); LHP/INF/OF Carter Holton (Fr., L/L); INF/

RHP/OF Trent Broadnax (Fr., R/R); INF Rome

Dean (So., R/R); C Trent Warren (Fr., R/R)

Season Outlook: After a rebuilding season by Benedictine standards, look for the Cadets to be back in the hunt this spring.

Seven starters are back, including pitcher Walker Barlow and outfielder John Thorpe. A lot of players received playing time last year which should pay off.



Walker Barlow
Benedictine



Johnny Richardson
Benedictine



John Thorpe
Benedictine

REGION 2-2A

Region Favorite: Jeff Davis

Players to Watch

INF/RHP – Tucker Allmond, Sr., Vidalia

LHP – Walker Barlow, Sr., Benedictine

SS/OF – Garrett Baucom, Sr., Jeff Davis

C/RHP/OF – Cooper Brown, Jr., Bacon County

RHP/1B/3B – Dahlson Brown, Sr., Bryan County

1B/RHP – Chandler Davenport, Sr., Jeff Davis

OF – Hunter Foster, Sr., Jeff Davis

C/RHP – Cole Graham, Jr., Toombs County

3B – Seth Graham, Sr., Jeff Davis

2B – Gage Hagan, Sr., Bryan County

RHP/SS – Cameron Kea, Sr., Swainsboro

OF/LHP – Wes Livingston, Jr., Bacon County

C/OF – Dalton McBride, Sr., Toombs County

RHP – Heston Mosley, Sr., Metter

RHP/C/3B – Riley Powers, Jr., Vidalia

INF/OF – Johnny Richardson, Sr., Benedictine

LHP – Ross Rush, Sr., Jeff Davis

OF/RHP – Alex Sanders, Sr., Jeff Davis

RHP/SS – Alex Sutton, Sr., Vidalia

RHP – Andrew Thompson, Sr., Swainsboro

OF – John Thorpe, Sr., Benedictine

BACON COUNTY RED RAIDERS

Head Coach: Derek James

Assistant Coach (s): Stephen Tyre, Thomas McCullough, Noble Coley, Patrick McDonald, Ray Stevens

2017 Record: 25-12

Returning Starters: C/RHP/OF Cooper Brown (Jr., R/R); INF/RHP Chase Kirkland (So., R/R); INF/RHP Dalton Anderson (So., R/R); 2B/OF/RHP Adam Newberry (Jr., R/R); OF/LHP Wes Livingston (Jr., L/L); C/1B Caleb Houston (So., R/R)

Other Returning Players: INF Lawton Taylor (So., R/R); C/RHP/OF Bennett Arney (So., L/R); 1B Jake Elrod (Jr., R/R); INF/RHP Jacob Smith (Jr., R/R); OF/RHP Drake Miles (So., L/R); OF/RHP Skyler Ivey (So., R/R)

Top Newcomers: INF/RHP Mason Mikell (Fr., B/R); INF/RHP Drew Elrod (Fr., R/R); INF/RHP Trey Thomas (Fr., R/R); OF Mathew Ellis (Fr.,

BRYAN COUNTY REDSKINS

Head Coach: Jason Roundtree

Assistant Coach (s): Justin Covington, Tony Leggett

2017 Record: 15-15

Returning Starters: C Colin Brown (Jr., 6-0, 205, R/R); LHP/1B John Dowd (Jr., 6-1, 215, L/L); 2B/RHP/SS Gage Hagan (Sr., 5-10, 150, L/R); RHP J.J. Strickland (Jr., 6-0, 175, R/R); RHP/1B/3B Dahlson Brown (Sr., 5-11, 215, R/R); 1B/DH Landon Thompson (Jr., 5-10, 200, R/R); OF Terron Dixon (Jr., 5-9, 145, R/R); OF Chase Taylor (So., 5-9, 140, R/R)

Other Returning Players: C Stone Bennett (Jr., 5-10, 220, R/R)

Top Newcomers: C/OF Cameron Smith (Jr., 5-9, 195, R/R); INF/OF Caleb Johns (Sr., 5-9, 145, R/R); LHP/OF Tucker Dyson (Fr., 6-0, 135, L/L)

Season Outlook: Bryan County finished .500 in the rugged Region 2-2A last year. While the senior class is small, several younger players received playing time last season, which should pay off this spring. Second baseman Gage Hagan and pitcher/infielder Dahlson Brown are two players to watch.

JEFF DAVIS YELLOW JACKETS

Head Coach: Paul Glass

Assistant Coach (s): Steven Wilcox, Roger Metts, Jeff McGowan, Sidney Spell

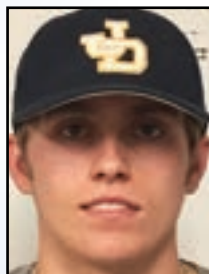
2017 Record: 32-8

Returning Starters: 1B/RHP Chandler Davenport (Sr., 6-3, 190, R/R); LHP Ross Rush (Sr., 6-1, 175, L/L); 3B Seth Graham (Sr., 6-0, 180, R/R); SS/OF Garrett Baucom (Sr., 6-0, 180, R/R); OF/RHP Alex Sanders (Sr., 5-9, 185, R/R); OF Hunter Foster (Sr., 6-2, 190, R/R)

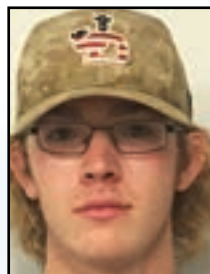
Other Returning Players: LHP/OF Caleb Leggett (So., 5-9, 170, L/L); SS/RHP Britt Metts (So., 5-9, 170, R/R); 2B/RHP Garrison Miles (So., 5-9, 160, R/R); C Colby Marchant (So., 5-9, 160, R/R); C Ryan Rush (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/R)

Top Newcomers: OF/RHP Kaden Lewis (Jr., 5-8, 160, R/R); INF/RHP Caleb Parlor (So., 5-9, 180, R/R); OF Caleb Chaney (So., 6-0, 180, L/R)

Season Outlook: The defending state champions have some holes to fill this spring. However, the Jackets return a good bit of talent from last season's squad. Jeff Davis will need to develop some more pitching, but they return all-state performers Seth Graham, Alex Sanders and Hunter Foster on offense. The senior class is solid.



Garrett Baucom
Jeff Davis



Chandler Davenport
Jeff Davis



Hunter Foster
Jeff Davis



Seth Graham
Jeff Davis



Ross Rush
Jeff Davis



Alex Sanders
Jeff Davis

Assistant Coach (s): Corey Chalker, Reagan Moxley

2017 Record: 8-18

Returning Starters: RHP/SS Cameron Kea (Sr., R/R); RHP Andrew Thompson (Sr., R/R); 1B/DH Jacob Ellis (Sr., R/R); DH Justin Logan (Sr., L/R); OF Deondra Jackson (Jr., R/R); C RJ Phillips (Jr., R/R); INF Davis Lamb (Jr., R/R); RHP/SS Nathan Copeland (So., R/R)

Other Returning Players: INF/C Kade Youmans (So., R/R); INF Gannon Thompson (Jr., R/R); RHP/INF Kyle Riddle (So., R/R); OF/RHP Tyler Brinson (So., R/R)

Season Outlook: Swainsboro should have a chance to improve upon last season's finish as eight starters are back. A talented group of seniors will lead the way – pitcher/shortstop Cameron Kea, pitcher Andrew Thompson, first baseman Jacob Ellis and designated hitter Justin Logan.

TOOMBS COUNTY BULLDOGS

Head Coach: Brian Fitzgerald

Survey not returned

VIDALIA INDIANS

Head Coach: Brent Korn

Assistant Coach (s): Rhett Carter, Chris Carr

2017 Record: 8-19

Returning Starters: INF/RHP Tucker Allmond (Sr., R/R); C/RHP Hunter Poole (Sr., R/R); CF Roper Smith (Sr., R/R); RHP/SS Alex Sutton (Sr., R/R); RHP/C/3B Riley Powers (Jr., R/R); 3B/RHP Dawson Ricks (So., R/R)

Other Returning Players: 1B/RHP Hall Graham (Sr., R/R); 3B Jaime Ricks (Sr., R/R); OF Garrett Gillis (Jr., R/R); OF Carson McClellan (Jr., R/R); INF/OF Matt Moyer (Jr., R/R); C Evan Stephens (So., R/R); U Mason Torrance (So., R/R)

Top Newcomers: OF/3B Michael Blount (Fr., R/R); SS Landry Mead (Fr., R/R); RHP/1B Grey Stephens (Fr., R/R); 2B/RHP Grayson Osborne (So., R/R)

Season Outlook: Look for Vidalia to be much better this spring in coach Brent Korn's second season. The Indians welcome back six returning starters and a wealth of talented underclassmen. Right-handed pitcher/shortstop Alex Sutton and infielder/pitcher Tucker Allmond return as well as junior pitcher/catcher/third baseman Riley Powers.

REGION 3-2A

Region Favorite: Bleckley County

Players to Watch

OF/RHP – Chandler Abney, Sr., Bleckley County

1B – Chip Burch, Sr., Dodge County

LHP/OF – Shayne Cannon, Sr., Bleckley County

C – Chandler Davis, Sr., Dodge County

C – Cody Dennis, Sr., Bleckley County

RHP/INF – Gavin Donaldson, Sr., East Laurens

OF – Carson Hart, Jr., Washington County

INF – Torian Holder, Sr., Dublin

INF – Seth Newsome, Sr., East Laurens

SS/RHP – Tyler Pruett, Sr., Dodge County

RHP/1B – Carter Raffield, Sr., Bleckley County

INF/C/RHP – Jackson Smith, Sr., Washington County

C/1B/RHP – Bailey Vickers, Sr., Washington County

BLECKLEY COUNTY ROYALS

Head Coach: Brad Davis

METTER TIGERS

Head Coach: Monty Nagel

Assistant Coach (s): Zach Rackett, Riley Kingery

2017 Record: 14-10

Returning Starters: RHP Heston Mosley (Sr., 6-2, 180, R/R); RHP/INF Hunter Young (Sr., 5-10, 190, R/R); RHP/INF Wil Funderburke (Sr., 5-11, 175, R/R); OF Tucker Wells (Sr., 6-0, 150, R/R); C Thomas Aldrich (Sr., 5-10, 160, R/R); OF/LHP Danton Crooms (Sr., 6-2, 170, R/L)

Other Returning Players: OF Philip Dekle (Sr., 6-0, 165, R/R); INF/RHP Lane Young (So., 6-2, 180, R/R); INF/RHP Tucker Attebury (So., 6-0, 180, R/R); INF William Mathis (Sr., 6-2, 200, R/R); OF/LHP Walker Dollar (So., 5-6, 140, L/L); C/INF Ahmad Collins (So., 5-6, 160, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP/INF Rylan Rigdon (Fr., 6-0, 170, R/R)

Season Outlook: A senior-laden team returns as the Tigers should contend for the state playoffs after missing out last season. Metter should be better this spring. Six starters are back, including standout pitcher Heston Mosley (3-2, 3.20 ERA).

SWAINSBORO TIGERS

Head Coach: Ashley Hooks

Assistant Coach (s):

William Barham, Jacob Byram, Tyler Sellars

2017 Record: 25-10

Returning Starters:

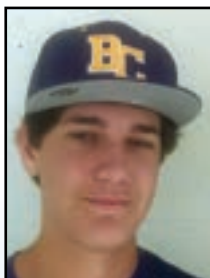
OF Andrew Butler (Sr., 6-0, 190, R/R); RHP/1B Carter Raffield (Sr., 6-4, 215, R/R); OF/RHP Chandler Abney (Sr., 6-3, 180, R/R); C Cody Dennis (Sr., 5-10, 185, R/R); OF Sam Knighton (Sr., 6-3, 180, R/R); LHP/OF Shayne Cannon (Sr., 6-3, 185, R/L); RHP/3B Tripp Purser (Jr., 6-1, 170, R/R); SS Jack Fernandez (So., 6-0, 180, R/R)

Other Returning Players: LHP Cameron Thompson (Sr., 5-9, 175, L/L); 1B Cohen Lee (Sr., 6-3, 230, R/R); 2B Noah Wimberly (Sr., 5-7, 150, R/R); 1B Spencer Brown (Sr., 5-10, 220, R/R); OF Lane Kitchens (Jr., 5-10, 170, R/R); OF Joseph Spires (Jr., 5-10, 170, R/R); 2B Carson Waters (So., 5-8, 160, R/R); 3B/RHP Steven Knighton (So., 5-11, 180, R/R)

Season Outlook: After making it to the state quarterfinals last year, Bleckley County aims to go farther. The Royals have eight returning starters, including one of the state's top pitchers in Carter Raffield (5-2, 1.75 ERA). Shayne Cannon (6-3, 2.40 ERA) also returns. Outfielder Chandler Abney (.325 avg, 25 RBIs) is back to lead the offense as well as on the mound.



Chandler Abney
Bleckley County



Shayne Cannon
Bleckley County

Other Returning Players: OF Ty Wright (Jr., 6-0, 150, R/R); 1B Will Gilbert (So., 5-11, 240, L/L); OF Jordan Branham (Jr., 6-0, 150, R/R); 3B Dyllan Metzendorf (So., 5-4, 140, R/R); 1B Bo Bassett (Sr., 5-11, 250, L/L)
Top Newcomers: INF/OF Kendall Wade (Fr., R/R); OF Gabriel Guyton (Fr., R/R)
Season Outlook: New coach Pat Jordan takes over and will try to help Dublin rebound from a disappointing season in 2017. Six starters are back, including utility player Torian Holder. Some younger players will need to step forward and contribute.

EAST LAURENS FALCONS

Head Coach: Gene Mulkey

Assistant Coach (s): Tyler Green, Trevor Barwick

2017 Record: 15-10

Returning Starters: INF/OF Seth Newsome (Sr., R/R); INF/OF/RHP Gavin Donaldson (Sr., R/R); INF/OF Chase Oliver (Sr., R/R); INF/RHP Collin Willhouse (Sr., R/R); INF/RHP Jon Adkins (Sr., L/R); C Cam Oliver (Jr., R/R); INF/OF/RHP Alex Munns (So., R/R); OF/RHP Cuyler Morris (Sr., R/R)
Top Newcomers: INF/OF/RHP Ryan Mimbs (Fr., R/R); INF/OF/RHP Chase Donaldson (Fr., R/R); INF/OF/RHP Lyne Pope (Fr., R/R)

Season Outlook: East Laurens made the state playoffs last season and looks to take things farther this spring. Eight starters and a solid senior class will lead the way. Pitcher/infielder Gavin Donaldson and infielder Seth Newsome are players to keep an eye on.

NORTHEAST-MACON RAIDERS

Head Coach: Darryl Silas

Survey not returned

SOUTHWEST-MACON PATRIOTS

Head Coach: Robert Cummings

Survey not returned

WASHINGTON COUNTY GOLDEN HAWKS

Head Coach: Timothy May

Assistant Coach (s): Jay Smith, Robert Blocker, Joel Griffin

2017 Record: 12-17

Returning Starters: SS C.H. Wright (Jr., R/R); CF Carson Hart (Jr., R/R); C/1B/RHP Bailey Vickers (Sr., R/R); INF/RHP Jackson Smith (Sr., R/R); RHP/OF Jake Helton (Jr., R/R); 3B Nick Smith (Sr., R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Ridge McCoy (Sr., R/R); OF Tyler Helton (So., R/R); 1B Brandon Yates (Jr., R/R); INF Davis Kay (So., L/R)

Top Newcomers: Jackson Lanthrip (Fr.); Illamade Dixon (Fr.); Aiden Cobb (Fr.)
Season Outlook: Washington County welcomes back six returning starters and should contend for a postseason berth again. The senior class is small, but a solid corps of underclassmen will be expected to contribute. Infielder/pitcher Jackson Smith and outfielder Carson Hart return to lead the team.

DODGE COUNTY INDIANS

Head Coach: Matt Herring

Assistant Coach (s):

Will McCranie, Brennan Ethridge

2017 Record: 24-9

Returning Starters:

C Chandler Davis (Sr., 5-10, 185, L/R); SS/RHP Tyler Pruett (Sr., 5-11, 175, R/R); 1B Chip Burch (Sr., 6-0, 205, R/R); INF/RHP

Gary Pittman (Sr., 5-9, 150, R/R); OF Ethan Rice (Sr., 5-10, 180, L/R); INF Kadin Burse (Jr., 5-9, 170, R/R); OF DJ Bursh (Jr., 5-11, 175, R/R)

Other Returning Players: 1B Daniel Coleman (Sr., 5-11, 215, R/R); OF Anthony Johnson (Sr., 5-10, 175, R/R); RHP Parker Gay (Jr., 6-0, 170, R/R); OF Andrew Lowery (So., 5-10, 160, R/R); SS Brodie Woodard (So., 5-8, 145, R/R); INF Noah Mincey (So., 5-9, 165, R/R); C Parker Hardin (So., 5-8, 170, R/R)

Season Outlook: The Indians finished strong last year and should contend for the region title. Seven starters are back, including leading hitters Chandler Davis (.532 avg., 30 RBIs) and Chip Burch (.389 avg., 34 RBIs). Shortstop/pitcher Tyler Pruett (.481 avg., 14 2B; 7-2, 1.79 ERA) also returns.



Chip Burch
Dodge County



Chandler Davis
Dodge County



Tyler Pruett
Dodge County

DUBLIN FIGHTING IRISH

Head Coach: Pat Jordan (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Howie Sawyers, Charles Mize

2017 Record: 10-19

Returning Starters: 2B Zion Washington (Sr., 5-8, 150, R/R); INF Torian Holder (Sr., 5-9, 155, R/R); SS/2B Triquavious Moye (Sr., 5-6, 130, R/R); LHP/OF Trent Leroy (Jr., 5-10, 150, L/L); RHP/INF Nick Sumner (Jr., 6-3, 220, R/R); CF Montarion Carswell (Sr., 5-10, 170, R/R)

REGION 4-2A

Region Favorite: Harlem

Players to Watch

2B/OF – Noah Delagrange, Sr., Harlem

OF – Ethan Dodd, Sr., Westside-Augusta

SS/RHP – Johnathan Roberts, Sr., Screven County

LF – Kashawn Robinson, Sr., Screven County

RHP/2B – Ryan Smith, Sr., Harlem

BUTLER BULLDOGS

Head Coach: Joseph Nero

Survey not returned

GLENN HILLS SPARTANS

Head Coach: TBA

Survey not returned

HARLEM BULLDOGS

Head Coach: Jimmie Lewis

Assistant Coach (s): Chris Waters, Lonnie Morris, Rusty James, Bob Hatcher

2017 Record: 21-11

Returning Starters: RHP/2B Ryan Smith (Sr., 5-7, 160, R/R); 2B/OF Noah Delagrang (Sr., 5-10, 160, L/R); 3B Kevin Jones (Jr., 5-11, 175, R/R); 1B/LHP Mason Spivey (Jr., 6-1, 170, L/L); OF/LHP Cameron Hatfield (Jr., 5-9, 160, L/L); OF/RHP Jarod Martin (Jr., 5-10, 160, L/R); OF/RHP Carson Quattlebaum (Jr., 6-0, 160, R/R)

Other Returning Players: SS Colton Lopez (So., 6-0, 160, R/R); C Jackson Lonergan (Jr., 6-0, 175, R/R); OF/LHP Jordan McCladdie (So., 5-10, 170, L/L); 3B/2B/C Chase Flick (Jr., 5-8, 165, R/R); RHP/OF Dylan Smith (So., 6-0, 160, R/R); RHP/C Dallas Overton (So., 6-2, 170, R/R); SS/2B Noah Harmon (So., 5-8, 150, R/R)

Top Newcomers: OF Cedric Colors (Fr., 5-10, 160, R/R); OF Calvin Black (Fr., 5-10, 160, R/R); SS/2B Harrison Booker (Fr., 5-7, 150, R/R); SS Caleb Coulson (Fr., 5-7, 150, R/R); RHP/1B Ben Blizzard (Fr., 6-5, 185, R/R)

Season Outlook: The Bulldogs should be one of the teams to beat in Region 4-2A this spring. Seven starters are back, but the team will be very young with only two seniors on the roster. Seniors Ryan Smith and Noah Delagrang lead a talented team full of sophomores and juniors.

JEFFERSON COUNTY WARRIORS

Head Coach: Tarry Stokes

Survey not returned

JOSEY EAGLES

Head Coach: James Draine

Survey not returned

LANEY WILDCATS

Head Coach: Jerry Hunter

Survey not returned

SCREVEN COUNTY GAMECOCKS

Head Coach: J.R. Doyle

Assistant Coach (s): Billy Pollock

2017 Record: 10-18

Returning Starters: SS/RHP Johnathan Roberts (Sr.); LF Kashawn Robinson (Sr.); C John William Pollock (Sr.); 1B/P John Scott (Sr.); 3B/1B/P Davien Perry (Sr.)

Other Returning Players: 1B/P Griffin Smith (Jr.); OF Chase Thompson (Jr.); OF Carson Becton (Sr.); 3B Wilson Boyd (Sr.); C JD Johnson (Jr.); OF Hunter Sowell (Sr.)

Top Newcomers: INF/OF Ross Crews (Jr.); 1B/P Michael Johnston (Jr.); OF Stephen Lewis (Jr.); INF/OF Edward Lovett (Jr.); P/INF Dawson Griffin (Sr.)

Season Outlook: Screven County looks to rebound from a disappointing finish last spring. The Gamecocks return a good nucleus of seniors. Five starters are back, including shortstop/pitcher Johnathan Roberts and left fielder Kashawn Robinson.

WESTSIDE-AUGUSTA PATRIOTS

Head Coach: Gerald Barnes

Assistant Coach (s):

Wayne Jackson,

Tim Bourdo

2017 Record: 15-14

Returning Starters: OF

Ethan Dodd (Sr., 5-9, 165,

R/L); OF Alex Raney (Sr.,

5-9, 145, L/L); OF Ricky

Cole (Jr., 5-10, 150, R/R);

RHP/INF Brison Creech

(Jr., 5-11, 155, R/R); RHP/

INF TJ Wright (Jr., 6-1,

175, R/R); RHP/INF Kolby

Masters (So., 6-1, 175,

R/R); RHP/1B Owen

Powers (So., 6-2, 175, R/R)

Other Returning

Players: RHP/C Conner

Jennings (Jr., 6-2, 150,

R/R); LHP/1B Matthew

Flannagan (So., 6-5, 170,

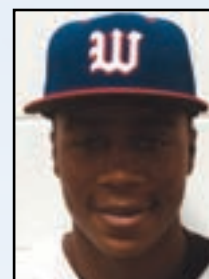
L/L); RHP/OF Ray Weatherford (So., 5-11, 160, R/R); INF Keller Rasier

(So., 5-10, 160, R/R); RHP/1B Matthew Schlein (So., 5-10, 175, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP/INF Kobe Walker (Jr., 6-2, 175, R/R); 1B/C

Chandler Mitchell (Fr., 6-2, 230, R/R); C Daniel Brown (Fr., 5-9, 165, R/R)

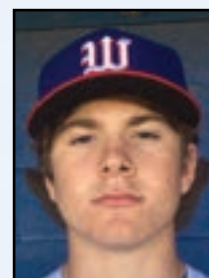
Season Outlook: After a rebuilding season in 2017, look for Westside to be much better this spring. Seven starters are back, including outfielder Ethan Dodd (.402 avg., 12 2B) and Alex Raney. The Patriots will still be young, relying heavily on a large group of juniors and sophomores.



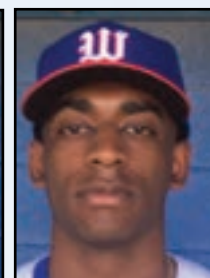
Ricky Cole
Westside-Augusta



Ethan Dodd
Westside-Augusta



Kolby Masters
Westside-Augusta



T.J. Wright
Westside-Augusta

REGION 5-2A

Region Favorite: Callaway

Players to Watch

RHP/3B – Kyle Campbell, Sr., Callaway

C/RHP – AJ Head, Sr., Heard County

3B/1B – Bryan Jones, Sr., Heard County

1B – Michael King, Sr., Lamar County

3B/RHP – John Kropaczewski, Sr., Jordan

RHP/INF – Bryce Long, Jr., Jordan

RHP/C – Chandler Lott, Sr., Callaway

SS/RHP – Dale Thornhill, So., Heard County

CALLAWAY CAVALIERS

Head Coach: Dusty Hubbard

Assistant Coach (s): Ashley Summerlin, Tim Freeman, Terry Hayes, Cam Pearson

2017 Record: 23-10

Returning Starters: RHP/C Chandler Lott (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/R); RHP/3B

Kyle Campbell (Sr., 5-10, 200, L/R); SS Drake Wade (Jr., 5-9, 165, R/R);

1B/DH Braelin Mitchell (Jr., 6-2, 180, R/R); INF/RHP Wesley Marchman

(So., 6-0, 160, R/R); 2B Bryce Kurian (Jr., 5-11, 150, R/R)

Other Returning

Players: LHP Austin Barber (Jr., 5-9, 160, L/L); INF Dawson Wright (So., 5-9, 150, R/R); RHP/INF Brooks Bledsoe (Jr., 6-0, 150, R/R); OF/RHP Jabari Smith (So., 5-9, 220, R/R); OF Trent Sheppard (Jr., 5-10, 155, R/R); 3B/1B Destin Patrick (Jr., 5-11, 205, R/R)

Season Outlook: Callaway came on strong last season and should pick up from where they left off last year. Six starters are back, including pitchers Chandler Lott (6-2, 2.10 ERA) and Kyle Campbell (2-0, 3.47 ERA). Underclassmen Drake Wade, Braelin Mitchell and Wesley Marchman also return after solid seasons in 2017.



Kyle Campbell
Callaway



Chandler Lott
Callaway

HEARD COUNTY BRAVES

Head Coach: Trent Bianco

Assistant Coach (s):

James Arp, Ryan Duffey, Matt Hornsby, Gavin Porter

2017 Record: 21-12

Returning Starters:

INF/RHP Bryan Jones (Sr., 6-0, 185, L/R); RHP/C AJ Head (Sr., 5-11, 165, R/R); OF/RHP Tanner Collins (Jr., 5-10, 175, R/R); SS/



Bryan Jones
Heard County



Dale Thornhill
Heard County

RHP Dale Thornhill (So., 5-10, 170, R/R); 2B/RHP Caden Raines (So., 5-9, 160, R/R); 3B/RHP Tray Owens (So., 5-10, 195, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Collin Wright (Jr., 5-10, 170, R/R); 1B/RHP Davey Raines (Sr., 6-3, 215, R/R); OF/RHP Jake Harrod (So., 6-0, 160, R/R); INF/C/OF/RHP Will Hammett (Jr., 6-0, 175, R/R); INF Joseph Mills (Jr., 5-8, 200, R/R)

Top Newcomers: INF/OF/RHP Leroy Marsh (Fr., 5-8, 155, R/R); OF/RHP J. Harrod (So., 6-0, 160, R/R); INF/RHP D. Cornelius (Fr., 6-3, 190, R/R)

Season Outlook: The Braves have some key positions to fill after winning 21 games last year. But Heard County should contend for the postseason again as six starters are back. Infielder Bryan Jones (.344 avg., 17 RBIs) and shortstop/pitcher Dale Thornhill return to lead the offense. Look for a solid corps of underclassmen to contribute.

JORDAN RED JACKETS

Head Coach: Tony Dimitri

Assistant Coach (s):

John Dimitri, Brandon Masters

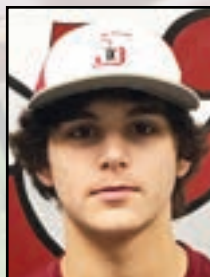
2017 Record: 14-18

Returning Starters:

RHP/INF Bryce Long (Jr., 6-0, 175, R/R); RHP/INF Hunter Jackson (Jr., 5-10, 155, R/R); C/OF Darius Stokes (Jr., 5-10, 165, R/R); OF/LHP Colby



John Kropaczewski
Jordan



Bryce Long
Jordan

Dehart (So., 5-8, 155, L/L); 1B Austin Bedsole (Sr., 6-5, 300, R/L); 3B/RHP John Kropaczewski (Sr., 6-0, 190, R/R); INF/OF Ty Bradley (Jr., 5-9,

155, R/R); U/DH Colin Dixon (Sr., 6-4, 165, R/R)

Other Returning Players: 2B Dylan Carter (Jr., 6-0, 145, R/R); 1B

Jacob VanErem (Sr., 6-2, 175, R/R)

Season Outlook: Jordan should be in postseason contention as eight starters are back. The bulk of experience remains in a talented junior class. Senior third baseman John Kropaczewski (.419 avg., 35 RBIs) returns to lead the offense. Juniors Bryce Long, Hunter Jackson and Darius Stokes return after promising sophomore seasons in 2017.

LAMAR COUNTY TROJANS

Head Coach: Mike Oberg

Assistant Coach (s): Hugh Strickland, Ron Fletcher, Joe Wilson

2017 Record: 13-16

Returning Starters: 1B Michael King (Sr.); OF Hunter Deaton (Sr.);

LHP Dawson Worthy (Sr.); C Jonah Stout (Jr.); INF Josh Rooks (Sr.)

Other Returning Players: OF Jackson Marsh (Sr.); LHP Drew Stout (So.); OF Devin Cato (Jr.); OF Adolphus Foster (So.); LHP Logan Sharpton (Jr.); INF Aderrius Barron (So.)

Top Newcomers: C/INF Collin Thompson (Jr.); INF Caleb Thompson (Jr.)

Season Outlook: Some key positions need to be filled, but there is enough returning talent for the Trojans to make a run at the playoffs. Five starters are back, four of them seniors. The good news is that first baseman Michael King (.371 avg.) returns after a solid junior campaign. He gives the Trojans a good nucleus to build around.

SPENCER GREENWAVES

Head Coach: Dave Kovalik

Survey not returned

TEMPLE TIGERS

Head Coach: David White

Survey not returned

REGION 6-2A

Region Favorite: South Atlanta

BEST ACADEMY

Coach: Bakari Moore

Survey not returned

DOUGLASS ASTROS

Coach: Sean Stalling

Survey not returned

HAPEVILLE HORNETS

Coach: TBA

Survey not returned

KIPP WARRIORS

Coach: Lester Caldwell

Survey not returned

SOUTH ATLANTA HORNETS

Coach: Jason Anderson

Survey not returned

THERRELL PANTHERS

Coach: William Brown

Survey not returned

WASHINGTON BULLDOGS

Coach: Quinterus Vancant (new)

Survey not returned

REGION 7-2A

Region Favorite: Rockmart

Players to Watch

OF – Cole Allen, Sr., Chattooga

C/3B – Dylan Bailey, Jr., Rockmart

3B – Chase Bradford, Sr., Dade County

C/RHP – Dexter Brown, Jr., Chattooga

3B/RHP – Brantson Duck, So., Armuchee

SS/RHP – Ty Floyd, So., Rockmart

C – Jordan Heath, Sr., Dade County

OF/RHP – Kole Holder, Sr., Rockmart

RHP – Glenn Nicholson, Sr., Coosa

SS – Logan Pledger, Jr., Coosa

SS – Trevor Proctor, Sr., Model

LHP/1B – Caleb Shiflett, Sr., Coosa

2B/RHP – Johnathan Suppes, Jr., Rockmart

LHP/1B – Greg Templeton, Sr., Dade County

CF/RHP – Trevor Thomas, Sr., Pepperell

SS/RHP – Wesley Wade, Jr., Pepperell

2B – Trey Whitehead, Sr., Dade County

SS/RHP – Brennon Whitlock, Jr., Chattooga

ARMUCHEE INDIANS

Head Coach: Andy Henderson

Assistant Coach (s): Marcus Holloway, Austin Miller

2017 Record: 7-19

Returning Starters: SS/RHP Gauge Burkett (So., 5-8, 160, R/R); 2B Ethan Nixon (Jr., 5-9, 160, R/R); 3B/RHP Brantson Duck (So., 6-0, 165, R/R); DH/RHP Randon Carter (Jr., 6-1, 215, R/R); RHP/OF Brett Barker (Sr., 5-11, 200, R/R); OF Taylor Brock (Sr., 5-9, 155, R/R); RHP/OF Jacob Stanley (Jr., 6-1, 180, R/R); 1B Brayden Perry (Jr., 6-0, 155, R/R)

Other Returning Players: C/RHP Bleu Swanson (Jr., 5-10, 195, R/R); U Paul Padgett (Jr., 5-8, 150, R/R); RHP/U Alexander Stevens (So., 5-11, 130, R/R); RHP Sam Russell (Sr., 6-3, 185, R/R); OF Ridge Painter (Jr., 5-9, 130, R/R); LHP/OF Christian Hale (Sr., 5-11, 220, L/L)

Top Newcomers: OF/RHP Wyatt Miller (Fr., 6-0, 165, R/R); U Luke Mayhall (So., 5-9, 150, L/R)

Season Outlook: Look for Armuchee to be much better in coach Andy Henderson's second season with the program. The Indians welcome back the return of eight starters. Seniors Brett Barker and Taylor Brock will lead a solid group of younger players. Infielder/pitcher Brantson Duck also returns after a promising freshman season.

CHATTOOGA INDIANS

Head Coach: Josh Mitchell

Assistant Coach (s): Mike Brown, Trey Tucker

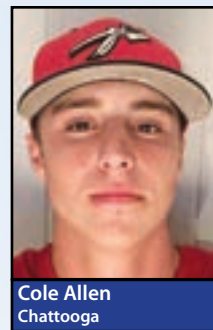
2017 Record: 9-18

Returning Starters: SS/RHP Brennon Whitlock (Jr., 5-8, 175, R/R); OF Cole Allen (Sr., 6-3, 190, R/R); 1B Caleb Veitch (Jr., 6-0, 220, R/R); OF/INF/RHP Devin Price (Jr., 6-2, 170, R/R); OF Jackson Lowenberg (Jr., 6-1, 175, R/R); C/RHP Dexter Brown (Jr., 5-9, 165, R/R); 3B/RHP Clayton Johnson (Jr., 6-2, 175, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF/LHP Blake Bruce (Sr., 6-2, 170, L/L); INF/RHP Bayln Stephens (So., 5-8, 160, R/R); C/OF Skyler South (Sr., 5-9, 160, R/R); 1B/RHP Zack Tucker (So., 6-1, 200, R/R); 2B/RHP Griffin Jarrett (So., 5-7, 125, R/R)

Top Newcomers: SS/2B/RHP Cash Allen (Fr., 6-1, 140, L/R)

Season Outlook: Chattooga struggled last season, but the Indians should have a chance to turn things around this spring. An excellent nucleus of returning players are back, including outfielder Cole Allen. Shortstop/pitcher Brennon Whitlock and catcher/pitcher Dexter Brown also return.



Cole Allen
Chattooga

COOSA EAGLES

Head Coach: Will Wiggins

Assistant Coach (s): Michael Dougherty, Nathan Goble

2017 Record: 9-17

Returning Starters: LHP/1B Caleb Shiflett (Sr., 6-1, 230, L/L); RHP Glenn Nicholson (Sr., 6-5, 215, R/R); C Brooks Moore (Sr., 5-9, 260, R/R); 3B Reese Burnette (Sr., 5-11, 180, R/R); RF Mason O'Neal (Sr., 6-2, 260, R/R); CF Dylan Callahan (Sr., 5-8, 165, R/R); 2B Kameron White (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/R); RF/RHP Jay Hamby (Sr., 5-9, 210, R/R); SS Logan Pledger (Jr., 5-11, 170, R/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP Seth Crowe (So., 5-10, 160, R/R)

Season Outlook: A veteran team returns and look for Coosa to be much better this spring. Nine starters are back, including ace pitcher Caleb Shiflett. Right-hander Glenn Nicholson also returns. Shortstop Logan Pledger is back after a promising sophomore campaign.



Caleb Shiflett
Coosa

DADE COUNTY WOLVERINES

Head Coach: Aaron Simmons (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Chris Brown, David Swader

2017 Record: 19-10

Returning Starters: LHP/1B Greg Templeton (Sr., 6-2, 190, L/L); C Jordan Heath (Sr., 5-9, 200, L/R); CF Seth Swader (Sr., 6-2, 175, R/R); LF Lee Spencer (Sr., 5-11, 160, R/R); 3B Chase Bradford (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/R); SS/RHP Harley Walker (Jr., 5-11, 155, R/R)

Other Returning Players: 2B Trey Whitehead (Sr., 5-10, 180, R/R); 1B Noah Bone (Jr., 6-1, 170, R/R); C Jack Johnson (Sr., 5-9, 155, R/R)

Season Outlook: First-year coach Aaron Simmons inherits a solid nucleus of returning players and the Wolverines should be in the postseason chase again. All-state pitcher Greg Templeton (7-1, 1.39 ERA) returns as well as reigning Region 7-2A Offensive Player of the Year Jordan Heath (.451 avg., 17 RBIs) at catcher. Keep an eye on this program.



Jordan Heath
Dade County



Greg Templeton
Dade County

GORDON CENTRAL WARRIORS

Head Coach: Jeremy Sewell (new)

Survey not returned

MODEL BLUE DEVILS

Head Coach: Ronnie Waddell (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Brandon Ponder

2017 Record: 3-24

Returning Starters: SS/RHP Trevor Proctor (Sr., 5-11, 175, R/R); 2B/OF/RHP Caleb Heard (Sr., 5-9, 170, R/R); 3B/SS Brady Pearson (Jr., 5-8, 150, R/R); 2B/OF Chyler Rudeseal (Sr., 5-7, 145, R/R); CF Brady Pace (Jr., 5-11, 180, L/R); OF Colby Reece (Sr., 5-10, 165, R/R); C Hunter Wessell (Jr., 6-1, 170, B/R)

Other Returning Players: C/OF Dawson Whitefield (Jr., 6-0, 165, R/R); RHP/RF Lane Boyd (Sr., 5-10, 150, R/R); OF Patrick Lloyd (So., 5-7, 145, R/R); 1B/C Tristan Belk (Sr., 6-0, 260, R/R); OF Kobe Henderson (Jr., 6-0, 170, R/R); RHP/INF Daulton Waddell (So., 6-1, 205, R/R); 2B/RHP Conner Yarbrough (So., 5-8, 160, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP Gavin Freeman (So., 5-8, 160, R/R); SS/RHP Rhett Edwards (Fr., 5-9, 160, R/R)

Season Outlook: Model had a tough season in 2017, and the Blue Devils will look to turn things around this spring. First-year coach Ronnie Waddell inherits seven returning starters, including a solid corps of seniors. Shortstop/pitcher Trevor Proctor gives Model a solid returning player to build around.

PEPPERELL DRAGONS

Head Coach: Britt Chandler (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Justin Bishop

2017 Record: 13-18

Returning Starters: OF/RHP Trevor Thomas (Sr., R/R); C Mason Fincher (So., R/R); SS/RHP Wesley Wade (Jr., R/R); OF Cayden Head (So., R/R); RHP/INF Blake Vasser (Sr., R/R)

Other Returning

Players: INF Levi Culberson (So., R/R); OF Darien Pasley (Jr., R/R); RHP Hunter Young (So., R/R); INF/OF Jake Chandler (So., L/L); OF Preston Frazier (Sr., R/R); C Harris Bagley (Sr., R/R); INF/RHP Mateo Garcia (So., R/R); INF Zac Garrett (Jr., R/R); LHP/OF Bruce Anderson (Jr., L/L)

Season Outlook: First-year coach Britt Chandler inherits five returning starters, and the Dragons should compete for the playoffs. Shortstop/pitcher Wesley Wade returns after a strong sophomore season in 2017. Outfielder/pitcher Trevor Thomas (.394 avg.) returns to lead the offense.

ROCKMART YELLOW JACKETS

Head Coach: Kenny Yanzetich

Assistant Coach (s): Jeff Lewis, Josh Smith, Geoff Sharpe

2017 Record: 22-13

Returning Starters: OF/RHP Kole Holder (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/R); C/3B Dylan Bailey (Jr., 6-0, 185, R/R); 2B/RHP Johnathan Suppes (Jr., 5-7, 145, R/R); CF Sam Sanders (Jr., 5-8, 155, R/R); 3B/RHP Cody



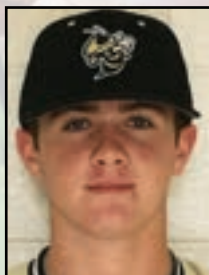
Trevor Thomas
Pepperell



Wesley Wade
Pepperell



Dylan Bailey
Rockmart



Ty Floyd
Rockmart

Parramore (So., 6-2, 190, L/R); SS/RHP Ty Floyd (So., 6-2, 190, R/R); C/RHP Brayden Cole (So., 6-2, 185, R/R); OF Reed Couch (So., 6-2, 215, R/R); 1B/LHP Evan Ratcliff (So., 5-9, 185, L/L)

Other Returning Players: RHP Luke Queen (Jr., 6-0, 170, R/R); RHP Logan Shelton (Jr., 5-10, 160, R/R); LHP/1B Griffin Pace (Jr., 6-2, 185, L/L); OF Noah Hughes (Jr., 5-8, 155, R/R); DH/C/3B Logan Holliday (Jr., 5-10, 205, L/R); 2B/LF CJ Culver (So., 5-8, 150, R/R); C/RHP Mason Hitchcock (So., 5-9, 155, R/R)

Season Outlook: A wealth of talent returns for Rockmart, but the Jackets may be a year away from reaching their full potential. Outfielder/pitcher Kole Holder will lead a team full of underclassmen. Keep an eye on catcher Dylan Bailey and shortstop/pitcher Ty Floyd who had strong seasons in 2017.

REGION 8-2A

Region Favorite: Social Circle

Players to Watch

SS – Peyton Adams, So., Elbert County

RHP/3B – Chandler Ball, Jr., Social Circle

2B – Will Bowman, Sr., Oglethorpe County

INF – Jeff Cain, Sr., Monticello

LHP – Mason Harris, Sr., Social Circle

RHP/OF – Corey Hays, Sr., Social Circle

RHP – Chase Horton, Sr., Rabun County

SS – David House, Jr., Social Circle

OF/RHP – Austin Jones, Jr., Rabun County

C – Gavyn Jones, Sr., Rabun County

1B/RHP – Grayson Lane, Sr., Rabun County

RHP/1B – Daniel Lavender, Jr., Elbert County

DH/U – Austin Pruitt, Sr., Oglethorpe County

RHP/U – Grant Rylee, Sr., Banks County

RHP/INF – CJ Thomas, Sr., Banks County

OF – Jared Watson, Sr., Putnam County

C – Jackson Will, Sr., Social Circle

BANKS COUNTY LEOPARDS

Head Coach: Peyton Hart (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Dylan Charles, Taylor McGilvray, James Dye

2017 Record: 15-17

Returning Starters: RHP/U Grant Rylee (Sr., 6-4, 200, R/R); RHP/INF CJ Thomas (Sr., 6-1, 185, R/R); RHP/OF Caden Cotton (So., 5-10, 150, R/R)

Other Returning Players: INF Chase Brown (Jr., 5-9, 150, R/R); INF/OF Kobe Westmoreland (So., 5-6, 150, L/L); U Parker Free (Jr., 5-10, 175, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP/INF Ty Burchette (Fr., 5-10, 145, R/R); RHP/INF Dylan Greenway (So., 5-9, 155, R/R); RHP/INF Nolan Hill (Fr., 5-10, 215, L/R); RHP/INF Wyatt Whitfield (Fr., 5-6, 145, R/R); U Jonathon Moon (Fr., 5-8, 160, R/R)

Season Outlook: Peyton Hart takes over and inherits three returning starters. The good news is that two of the three returners – seniors Grant Rylee (2-0, 4.30 ERA) and CJ Thomas (2-4, 1.24 ERA) – are pitchers, giving Banks experience on the mound. Sophomore Caden Cotton returns after showing promise as a freshman.

ELBERT COUNTY BLUE DEVILS

Head Coach: Lance Ingram

Assistant Coach (s): Brett Padgett, Justin Bellew, Parker Martin

2017 Record: 32-8

Returning Starters: RHP/1B Daniel Lavender (Jr., 6-4, 220, R/R); SS Peyton Adams (So., 5-11, 170, R/R); 2B/RHP Dawson Dye (Jr., 5-11, 155, R/R); OF Zac

Brady (Sr., 5-9, 160, R/R)

Other Returning

Players: OF Kyle Moon (So., 5-10, 165, R/R); OF Brayden Eavenson (So., 5-8, 150, R/R); C/RHP Mason Anderson (Jr., 5-10, 200, R/R); OF/LHP Stone Crook (Jr., 5-10, 155, L/L); INF Paris Umble (Jr., 5-9, 200, L/R); OF/RHP Max Almond (Sr., 5-10, 150, R/R)



Peyton Adams
Elbert County



Daniel Lavender
Elbert County

Season Outlook: The defending state runner-ups lost a large senior class to graduation, and they have some holes to fill to approach last year's success. Four starters are back, including pitcher/first baseman Daniel Lavender and shortstop Peyton Adams. A wealth of underclassmen will compete for starting positions.

MONTICELLO HURRICANES

Head Coach: Chris Jenkins

Assistant Coach (s): Matt Hyde, Brady McMichael

2017 Record: 8-17

Returning Starters:

INF Jeff Cain (Sr.); P/INF Matt Cain (So.); OF Max Dotson (Jr.); P/INF Hunter Duke (Jr.); P/INF Braden Lynch (Sr.); P/INF Jacob Parrish (Jr.)

Other Returning Players: INF Dylan Jackson (Jr.); P/INF Ben Lynch (So.); C Tyler Wages (So.)

Season Outlook: Monticello welcomes back six returning starters and should have a chance to improve upon last season's finish.

The senior class is small and some underclassmen will need to step forward. The good news is that seniors Jeff Cain and Braden Lynch return to provide veteran leadership.

OGLETHORPE COUNTY PATRIOTS

Head Coach: Jason Bramlett

Assistant Coach (s): Matt Allen, Jay Paul

2017 Record: 13-14

Returning Starters: DH/U Austin Pruitt (Sr., R/R); 2B Will Bowman (Sr., R/R); LHP/OF Ben Beasley (So., L/L); RHP/INF Eli Mattox (So., R/R); 1B Luke McElroy (Sr., R/R); C Jake Cassidy (Sr., R/R);

Other Returning Players: U Max Kennedy (Jr., R/R); RHP/U Hayden Utley (So., R/R); RHP/U Kolbe Hubbard (So., R/R); U Nick Orlovsky (So., R/R); 1B/OF Tate Jones (So., L/L); RHP/INF Tyler Hogan (So., R/R)

Season Outlook: Oglethorpe County looks to shake off a disappointing finish. The Patriots welcome back six starters, including a solid group of seniors. Infielder Will Bowman (.347 avg., 14 RBIs) returns to spark the offense, while sophomores Ben Beasley and Eli Mattox lead a young but talented pitching rotation.

PUTNAM COUNTY WAR EAGLES

Head Coach: Matt Riden (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Kyle Gourley, Paul Garland

2017 Record: 7-16

Returning Starters: OF Jared Watson (Sr., R/R); C/RHP Simon Petite (Sr., R/R); 1B/LHP Ethan Crouch (Jr., L/L); 3B Cullen Lee (So., R/R); OF/RHP Raymond Lee (Jr., R/R); 2B/RHP Jeremy Humphries (So., R/R)

Other Returning Players: RF/LF James Mead (So., R/R); 3B Aaron Meade (Jr., R/R); OF Robert Boswell (Sr., R/R)

Top Newcomers: 1B/3B Kaden Corbitt (Fr., R/R)

Season Outlook: First-year coach Matt Riden takes over and inherits six returning starters as Putnam County should have a chance to

improve upon last season's record. Keep an eye on outfielder Jared Watson, who was an all-region selection last year. Look for some underclassmen to contribute.

RABUN COUNTY WILDCATS

Head Coach: Justin Clutter

Assistant Coach (s): Preston Pitts, Matt Drummond, David Alonso

2017 Record: 10-16

Returning Starters: 3B/RHP Chase Horton (Sr., 6-2, 185, R/R); SS/RHP Jonathan Henson (Sr., 5-10, 180, R/R); 1B/RHP Grayson Lane (Sr., 6-3, 180, R/R); C Gavyn Jones (Sr., 6-0, 215, R/R); OF/RHP Austin Jones (Jr., 6-0, 185, R/R); OF/RHP Kasin Old (Jr., 6-2, 175, R/R); 2B/OF Colin Crosby (Sr., 5-10, 175, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF/RHP Sean Thompson (Jr., 5-10, 150, R/R); OF Cameron Lovell (Jr., 6-3, 180, R/R); 1B/RHP Keaton Beavers (Jr., 6-4, 185, R/R); 2B/OF Aaron Bryson (Jr., 5-10, 140, R/R); 2B Jon Segó (So., 5-9, 150, R/R)

Top Newcomers: 3B Brody Jarrard (Fr., 5-10, 190, R/R); 1B/C Brady Wilson (Fr., 5-9, 165, L/R)

Season Outlook: Seven starters are back to help Rabun County this spring. The Wildcats return all of their pitching rotation from last year, including Chase Horton, Austin Jones and Grayson Lane. The senior class is strong and should help Rabun improve upon last season's record. A solid corps of juniors will contribute.

SOCIAL CIRCLE REDSKINS

Head Coach: Matt Huffman

Assistant Coach (s):

Noah Albury, Blake Edwards

2017 Record: 15-14

Returning Starters:

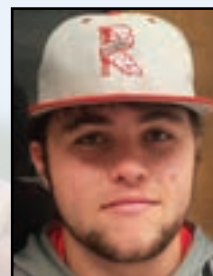
RHP/3B Chandler Ball (Jr., 5-11, 200, R/R); C Jackson Will (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/R); RHP/OF Corey Hays (Sr., 5-10, 175, L/R); OF Caleb Howard (Sr., 5-11,

180, R/R); LHP Mason Harris (Sr., 5-10, 175, L/L); SS David House (Jr., 6-1, 170, R/R); RHP/OF Davis Smith (Jr., 6-5, 190, R/R); RHP/3B Tate Peters (Jr., 6-3, 215, R/R); U Douglas Peppers (Sr., 5-10, 160, R/R)

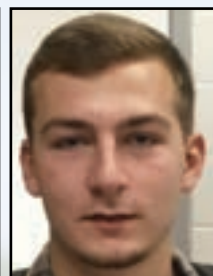
Other Returning Players: U Avery Peters (Jr., 5-10, 170, L/R); RHP Jackson Wheeler (Jr., 5-9, 150, R/R); U Conner Bailey (Jr., 5-10, 180, R/R)

Top Newcomers: 1B Dylan Hawley (So., 6-3, 225, R/R); U Brady Head (So., 6-2, 180, R/R); RHP J.P. Duncan (So., 6-3, 195, R/R)

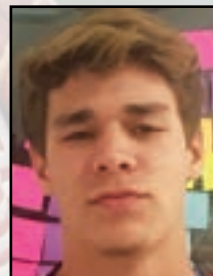
Season Outlook: Social Circle made the postseason last spring before falling in the second round to eventual state champ Jeff Davis. The Redskins look to build off that momentum. Nine starters are back, including pitchers Chandler Ball and Corey Hays. Shortstop David House also returns.



Chandler Ball
Social Circle



Corey Hays
Social Circle



David House
Social Circle

A little bit special

Schley County wins second title in three years

By Tim Morse

Schley County baseball coach Chuck Cheek cracked a smile when a reporter asked him to summarize the 2017 season.

"We talked about who the teams were (to contend) early in the season, and we talked about who we thought the teams were who had a chance to win it, and none of the teams involved were us," said Cheek, whose Wildcats captured the school's second state title in three seasons. "Honestly, most of those conversations about the best team started and ended with Gordon Lee.

"Two years ago (2015), I'm not sure we were the best team. Treutlen may have been the best team. In 2016, I'm almost positive we had the best team, but on that day, Treutlen was better. But this team (2017) hit the ball really well. They just took it upon themselves to work hard. We really struggled defensively early, but they worked hard and got better. I'm really proud of them. I'm just proud for the guys because they had to do a lot of work to get there."

The Wildcats (34-2) finished the 2017 season on a 26-game winning streak and captured the Georgia High School Association Class 1A Public School title, eclipsing the school mark for victories (29) set by the 2006 squad that made the state semifinals.

Schley wasn't one of the preseason favorites after the Wildcats graduated six starters and the bulk of their pitching staff after the 2016 season. Many believed the team, which lost in the semifinals to eventual state champion Treutlen, lost too many weapons to contend.

However, a blue-collar group patched together a pitching rotation and improved tremendously on offense and defense.

"It's a 'Team Game,'" outfielder Reid Ragsdale said. "You can't win with just one player. We all came together, we gelled, we've been together all our lives and it happened at the right time."

Schley lost two one-run games to blemish its record. The Wildcats fell to Mount de Sales, then lost 13-12 in an eighth-inning walkoff to Georgia Independent Schools Association power Deerfield-Windsor of Albany on March 9.

The Wildcats didn't lose again, capturing the Region 4-1A crown for the third time in four seasons. Then they swept Trion, Taylor County, Telfair County and top-ranked Gordon Lee in the postseason.

"We got after it every day in the weight room and on the field in practice, and that pushed us," said senior Will Barry, who graduated.

All-state selection Chase Patrick was the team's ace on the mound, but the coaching staff developed more arms behind him, including Barry who earned the start in Game 1 of the state championship series. Barry threw six scoreless innings before giving way to senior Clint Sellars who finished it off with a scoreless seventh.

"Everybody said that was where we were going to be weak at," Cheek said of the pitching rotation. "Coach (William) Rooks and Coach (Jody) Sellars worked so hard with our guys. Depth was a concern early and then we had some injuries - Will and Chase both missed significant time on the mound. In the end, that was a positive. It sort of forced some guys to step up in a hurry and that helped our team in the long run.

"Our guys worked so hard in the bullpen starting back in October and November when we could do 2-on-1s and working all the way through. That was a strong point for us, and we knew the guys had some talent. For them to come out and work like they did, I'm just really proud of them."

After three straight deep postseason runs, some could argue the Wildcats have developed a baseball dynasty. But Cheek would rather not have that discussion. He said each championship team has its strengths and weaknesses.

"They're so different," he said. "The first one, it was special ... they were our first championship team. And this one kind of validates it. There's a bunch of people who have one. Not many have two. It makes it a little bit special."

Especially considering most believed the Wildcats lost too many pieces from 2016 to contend.



Schley County pitcher Will Barry throws against Gordon Lee.

Photo by Tim Morse



Schley's Reid Ragsdale hugs coach Chuck Cheek after recording a triple in Game 2 against Gordon Lee in the state championship series.

Photo by Tim Morse



Schley County players hoist the state championship trophy at State Mutual Stadium.

Photo by Tim Morse



Schley County team members are, **Front Row** (l-r), Tyler Cheek, Dylan Windham, Dakota Knight, Alec Harris, Clint Sellars, Jarrod Wall, Chase Patrick, Reid Ragsdale, Will Barry, Garrett Peavy, Lance Duhon. **Back Row** (l-r) Coach Chuck Cheek, Coach William Rooks, Lorne Barineau, Cameron Belcher, Ashton Goodin, Jordan Hall, Wade Law, Chance Hollomon, William Hardin, Ross Minick, Camron Vanlerberghe, Trent Bivins, Coach Jody Sellars, Coach John Duran.

Photo by Tim Morse

Class 1A Public Top 15



CHARLTON COUNTY

Since the Georgia High School Association began splitting Class 1A into a public and private division in 2012-13, no two teams have dominated more than Charlton County and Schley County. Both have a pair of state championships in the past five seasons. Charlton could be looking at a third championship in six years this spring.

Eight of the team's nine starters are back after the Indians lost in the semifinals last year. Pitching will be the team's biggest strength. Georgia signee Jack Gowen (8-1, 0.39 ERA) and Tyler Beckham (6-1, 1.38 ERA) anchor what should be a dominating rotation.

The talent isn't just limited to the pitching rotation. Seniors Cole Giddens, Mitch Baxter and KJ Williams return, while catcher Trevor Knowles returns behind the plate after a strong sophomore campaign last year. And shortstop/pitcher Tyler Chesser will be expected to put up big numbers on offense.

On paper, this team is loaded. But surviving the rugged Region 2-1A slate will be a challenge.



GORDON LEE

After falling in the state championship series for the third time in five years last spring, the Trojans are eager for another shot. Gordon Lee lost a lot to graduation, but the talent is there for another run and the Trojans will be in the chase again. Seven starters are back. Pitcher Austin Thompson gives the Trojans a chance to win each time he takes the mound.

The senior leadership is strong and catcher Dylan Minghini, first baseman Caleb Hopkins, outfielder Mason Pettigrew and infielder McCain Barbee lead what will be an explosive offense.



IRWIN COUNTY

This could potentially be Irwin County's best team since the Indians won the Class 1A state title in 1997. Most of last season's team that made the state quarterfinals is back, including junior all-state performers Wil Hudson and Cam Vickers. The good news for Irwin County baseball fans is that the bulk of the team are underclassmen. The bad news is that the senior class is relatively small, meaning veteran leadership will be a premium. The Indians will be a dangerous team.



SCHLEY COUNTY

The Wildcats have been the most successful program in the Class 1A public school division the past three seasons with two state titles and a state semifinal finish. But Schley will be rebuilding this spring. That doesn't mean the Wildcats should be taken lightly. Pitching is the biggest weakness as Schley lost its top two pitchers in Chase Patrick and Will Barry to graduation. The good news is that offensive sparkplug Wade Law is back. If some younger players mature quickly, the Wildcats could make another deep run.



TAYLOR COUNTY

The Vikings continue to flirt with elite status. After falling in the state quarterfinals last season, this could be Taylor County's best team. The Vikings have two of the state's best on their team in shortstop Gunnar Watson and pitcher Matthew DeLoach. But Taylor has enough weapons not only to make the state playoffs again but to contend for the Region 4-1A title. This program continues to improve.



TELFAR COUNTY

The Trojans are anxious to prove last year's run to the state semifinals wasn't a misprint. Telfair County has seven returning starters and should be just as good if not better. All-state players Ian Blankenship and Ryan Dopson return to lead a program that won 22 games and should be solid for several seasons.



JOHNSON COUNTY

The Trojans won 22 games and made a run to the state quarterfinals last year. Look for Johnson County to build off last year. A wealth of talent returns, including what could be a lethal pitching rotation with the return of seniors Duren Wood, Mikey Estes, Brooks Norton and Hunter Wilkerson as well as sophomore Adam Hooks. This could be a dangerous team.



BOWDON

The Red Devils had high expectations last spring but injuries and some off-the-field issues hurt them, forcing several younger players to contribute. That could pay off this spring. Six of the team's eight starting position players are back. The question mark will be the pitching rotation. If that develops, the Red Devils could be a team that nobody wants to play.



TRION

The Bulldogs have put together back-to-back impressive seasons. This spring won't be any different. Trion has enough playmakers to make a statement in the rugged Region 6-1A. The versatile Cole Phillips returns, but the lack of experienced pitching is a concern. If the Bulldogs can find a few more dominant pitching arms, Trion could make another strong run.



CLINCH COUNTY

The Panthers couldn't get much of anything going in 2017, but then they got things together late in the season. Clinch looks to build off last year's positive late momentum. If the Panthers can generate some offense, they could have a special season. Pitchers Duncan Lutz and Warren Stovall lead a strong pitching rotation.



COMMERCE

The Tigers could be a year away but look for Commerce to be in the hunt come postseason time. This team has as much pitching as any team in Class 1A. Seniors Charlie Ledford and Jarrett Seay return to provide veteran leadership to a young team. Keep an eye on the Tigers as the season progresses.



LANIER COUNTY

The Bulldogs won Region 2-1A last year, but graduation took a big toll on them. The majority of last season's pitching staff is gone, but seniors Dylan Metts, Trenton Berryhill and Evan Culpepper are ready for the challenge. Offensively, all-state infielder Noah Tuten is back as well as catcher Dawson Searcey and outfielder Bryon Connell. Lanier's success will depend on how its younger players mature.



ECI

The Bulldogs annually rank as one of the state's best. And just because they have a new coach won't change anything. Graduation did hit ECI hard, but some younger players will need to step forward. If some underclassmen mature, the Bulldogs could be trouble come postseason time.



SEMINOLE COUNTY

The Indians finished the 2017 regular season undefeated and got a first-round bye in the state playoffs. Seminole then lost to Treutlen in the second round. The Indians look to build off last season's 27-2 mark this spring. Some holes need to be filled, but the talent is there for the Indians to duplicate last year's success.



BACONTON CHARTER

The Blazers will be in the hunt as usual after a somewhat rebuilding project in 2017. Baconton welcomes back its top pitcher in Will Bush and its top hitter in Spencer Culp. The Blazers are still relatively young and if some younger players mature, Baconton could make some noise in the postseason.

Others to watch: (Alphabetical Order) GMC, Jenkins County, Manchester, Miller County, Treutlen

Putting it all together

Savannah Christian completes the Quest, wins title

By Tim Morse

The way Carl Carter sees it, players on his Savannah Christian baseball team were tired of hearing his stories.

"They heard stories about how we were one swing away, or one hit away," Carter said. "We got close but never could finish."

Until 2017.

Savannah Christian rolled through the Class 1A private school division playoffs and won the school's first baseball championship in the Georgia High School Association with a sweep of defending state champion Tattnall Square.

The Raiders finished with a 34-3 record and two of the team's losses came during a spring break tournament at Lakepoint Complex in Emerson, Ga. Savannah Christian's other loss was a 3-2 eight-inning setback to Class 3A state runner-up Pierce County in the season opener.

Carter said he believed the 2017 group could be special. The team played summer ball and showed good chemistry, then they showed up for fall workouts and attended a velocity program. Carter said the team was prepared to play when preseason practice began.

"Assistant coach Clark Brockman helped me a lot with that and he did a great job," Carter said of the Raiders' offseason workouts. "We were blessed. We had a great year."

After winning Region 3-1A and receiving a first-round bye, Savannah Christian swept North Cobb Christian, Mount de Sales, Athens Christian and Tattnall Square to win its first title.

The Raiders used a lethal pitching staff that consisted of Liberty University signee Zack Brockman, freshman Kyle Hilton and sophomore Jarrett Brown. Brown drove home the game-winning run in the second game of the state championship series when his walkoff single in the bottom of seventh scored James Portzer.

So many others contributed on offense, including East Tennessee State signee Ben Jackson and left fielder Drew Malphrus.

"I always said good defense and good pitching will win you a lot of games," Carter said. "If you pitch good, play good defense and hit well, that can just about win you all the games."

Carter, a 500-game winner who was inducted into the Georgia Dugout Club Hall of Fame before the season started, helped the Raiders finish the season on an 18-game winning streak. He dedicated the title to his longtime Savannah Christian mentor Doyle Kelley, who passed away in the fall of 2016.

It was the eighth time Carter had taken one of his teams to the state semifinals.

"We won this for ourselves, but we really wanted to win it for coach Carter," Jackson told the Savannah Morning News. "He



Savannah Christian players pose after winning the state baseball title.

Photo by Savannah Christian



Members of Savannah Christian are, **Front Row** (l-r), Cameron Crosby, Michael Broadmann, Garrett Bradley, Ben Jackson. **Middle Row** (l-r), James Portzer, Jack Deal, Mark Carlson, Drew Malphrus, Chris Dettling, Jacob Wigand, Bryce O'Brien, Kyle Hilton. **Back Row** (l-r), Coach Carl Carter, Coach Fred Yarbrough, Tyler Richards, Justin Anderson, Nick Arrowood, Zack Brockman, Jarrett Brown, Mark Langston, Coach Clark Brockman.

Photo by Savannah Christian

has been the best friend and the best coach I could ask for. This is a dream come true to win state for him in our senior year."

One of the things Carter said impressed him the most was the team's bond. A talented group of underclassmen and a solid corps of seniors meshed together to make the run, completing what the team called "The Quest."

"This is the best feeling; all of our hard work has paid off," Brown told the Savannah Morning News. "And we have a lot coming back next year. I think we have a good chance to do it again."

But topping the 2017 championship will be a tough task.

Class 1A Private Top 15



SAVANNAH CHRISTIAN

The Raiders won their first state baseball championship in school history last season. And it likely won't be Savannah Christian's last one. There are enough leftovers from last season for the Raiders to be the team to beat in 2018. Most of it starts with underclassmen.

Savannah Christian will miss the Georgia Dugout Preview Magazine's 2017 Class 1A Private School Player of Year Zack Brockman, but the Raiders have enough pitching to stay on top with the return of sophomore right-hander Kyle Hilton and junior right-hander Jarrett Brown.

Savannah Christian stayed hot after a spring break tournament last March and took the momentum into the postseason where they swept every round. That positive momentum will be hard to stop with the return of seven starters and a wealth of other players who saw playing time last year.

The senior class is strong and on paper, the Raiders should be the team to beat again.



TATTNALL SQUARE

After finishing as the state runner-up, the Trojans will be back again in 2018. Tattnall Square lost a wealth of pitching depth, but seven starters return and every one of them can pitch. The Trojans won't be short on talent. Perfect Game All-American Kendall Logan Simmons returns as well as infielders Logan Fink and Luke Laskey. When some younger players mature, the Trojans will be tough to stop.



HOLY INNOCENTS'

After a stinging loss to Tattnall Square in the state semifinal series last year, the Golden Bears have eight returning starters and will be tough to beat again this spring. Pitchers Ben Keever and Guillermo Granier return to lead a strong pitching rotation. The Bears will be led by a strong senior class and should make another deep postseason run.

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MOUNT PARAN CHRISTIAN

The Eagles are poised for a strong season with a heavy senior class and a lot of experience returning. Top pitcher Austin Ross returns after winning 11 games last year and leads a strong rotation. But the offense could put up some impressive numbers with seniors Jack Alexander and Nick Swanson leading the way. If the Eagles can survive the brutal Region 6-1A schedule, look for them to do big things in the playoffs.



KINGS RIDGE CHRISTIAN

The Tigers lost an uncharacteristic 10 games last year, but they still managed to make it to the state quarterfinals last spring. In order for the program to duplicate its recent success, some younger players must step forward. Kings Ridge Christian has the talent to contend for the playoffs again, they just need some additional depth. Keep an eye on them.



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN

The Mustangs continue to be a program on the rise. Mount Vernon made the state playoffs last year, won its first round and took Mount Paran Christian to three games in the second round before falling. The Mustangs look to build off that success this spring. They have the players to continue, including versatile Tres Gonzalez.



PRINCE AVENUE CHRISTIAN

The Wolverines should be the team to beat in Region 8-1A. The talent is back for Prince Avenue Christian to have a special season. Pitching will be the team's biggest strength as Danny Westbury and Trey Felt return. The offense is also capable of producing some big numbers.



PROVIDENCE CHRISTIAN

The Storm have enough talent to contend for the postseason again. If Providence Christian can perform consistently on offense, they could wreak havoc in Region 8-1A. Left-hander Cole Tillotson and Luke Matthews lead a strong pitching rotation.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN DAY

FPD hasn't won a state title since 2010 when they were a member of the Georgia Independent Schools Association. The Vikings will have their best team since they joined the Georgia High School Association in 2011. FPD's top pitchers return as Gavin Bloodworth, Garrett West and Noah Takac return. This is a senior-oriented team that will be tough.



CALVARY DAY

The Cavaliers will be strong again. While the senior class is small, a talented corps of underclassmen will help Calvary Day contend in Region 3-1A. The Cavaliers may be a year away, but the talent is there to have a special season in 2018. This is a team to keep an eye on.



HEBRON CHRISTIAN

Last season was the first time in three seasons that Hebron wasn't in the Class 1A Private School state championship series. The Lions fell in the quarterfinals. Six starters are back, but Hebron will need some younger players to step forward and mature.



GEORGE WALTON

The Bulldogs have seven returning starters and should never be counted out. George Walton has the offense, but the lack of experienced pitching is a concern. The team is still young, but if they can develop some pitchers and get some confidence, the Bulldogs could be tough late in the season. The offense has the ability to put up some big numbers.



PINECREST ACADEMY

Look for this to be a solid team from Pinecrest Academy in 2018. The Paladins have six returning starters and should be able to score plenty of runs with infielders Will Patota and Ben Gobbel leading the way. Pinecrest has Patrick O'Rourke and Caleb Bohn returning on the hill. The Paladins won't be sneaking up on anybody.

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BROOKSTONE

This could be the Cougars' best team in at least three seasons. Pitching will be the biggest strength as seniors Banks Massey and Bo Voltz and junior Jack Little will keep Brookstone in the hunt. Versatile offensive standouts Trey Lingo and Richard Hill should provide enough spark for the Cougars to challenge for the Region 4-1A crown.



WESLEYAN

The Wolves struggled last season during an injury-plagued season that saw them finish below .500. They still managed to make the playoffs before a loss in the first round. The Wolves played a wealth of underclassmen last year and that experience should pay off. Look for the Wolves to put last season behind them.

Others to watch: (Alphabetical Order) Aquinas, Athens Christian, Eagles Landing Christian, Fellowship Christian, North Cobb Christian, Stratford, Strong Rock Christian, Walker

CLASS 1A PUBLIC PRESEASON ALL STATE

First Team

Name	Position	Grade	School	Comment
Tyler Beckham	Pitcher	Senior	Charlton County	Quietly gets the job done
Matthew Deloach	Pitcher	Senior	Taylor County	Won 11 games last season
Ryan Dopson	Pitcher	Senior	Telfair County	Ace pitcher on strong team
Jack Gowen	Pitcher	Senior	Charlton County	Tough guy to beat
Duncan Lutz	Pitcher	Junior	Clinch County	He continues to be tough
Austin Thompson	Pitcher	Senior	Gordon Lee	Can be lights out on the mound
Cam Vickers	Pitcher	Junior	Irwin County	He keeps getting better
Wade Law	Catcher	Senior	Schley County	Can play with the best of them
Dylan Minghini	Catcher	Senior	Gordon Lee	Makes the pitcher look good
Ian Blankenship	Infielder	Senior	Telfair County	Good at everything he does
Cole Giddens	Infielder	Senior	Charlton County	Can hit, pitch and play defense
Will Hudson	Infielder	Junior	Irwin County	Versatile player does everything
Peyton Mercer	Infielder	Senior	ECl	Quiet leader on good team
Kohler Tabb	Infielder	Senior	Miller County	Can play just about anywhere
Noah Tuten	Infielder	Senior	Lanier County	Makes the offense go
Mitch Baxter	Outfielder	Senior	Charlton County	Good bat, excellent speed
Trajan Brown	Outfielder	Senior	Bowdon	Makes things happen
Aubrey Johnson	Outfielder	Junior	Seminole County	Can hit and pitch well
Brooks Norton	Outfielder	Senior	Johnson County	Guy you want on your team
Cole Phillips	Outfielder	Senior	Trion	Can hit for contact or power
Gunnar Watson	Designated Hitter	Senior	Taylor County	Tough guy to get out
Cory Bivins	Utility	Senior	GMC	Always provides a spark

Second Team

Pitchers – Cameron Belcher, Sr., Schley County; Garrett Brown, Sr., Manchester; Will Bush, Sr., Baconton Charter; Ty Davis, Jr., Commerce; Adam Hooks, So., Johnson County; Warren Stovall, Jr., Clinch County; Duren Wood, Sr., Johnson County; **Catchers** – Trevor Knowles, Jr., Charlton County; Dawson Searcy, Sr., Lanier County; **Infielders** – McCain Barbee, Sr., Gordon Lee; Caleb Hopkins, Sr., Gordon Lee; Dylan Johnson, Jr., Miller County; Chase Smith, Jr., Seminole County; Camron Vanlerberghe, Sr., Schley County; Blaine Woody, Jr., Trion; **Outfielders** – CJ Ackles, Sr., Mount Zion-Carrollton; Trey Bess, So., Telfair County; Mason Pettigrew, Sr., Gordon Lee; Colton Pitcock, Sr., Bowdon; KJ Williams, Sr., Charlton County; **Designated Hitter** – Tyler Chesser, Jr., Charlton County; **Utility** – Spencer Culp, Jr., Baconton Charter

CLASS 1A PRIVATE PRESEASON ALL STATE

First Team

Name	Position	Grade	School	Comment
Jarrett Brown	Pitcher	Junior	Savannah Christian	Competitor who hates to lose
Carter Buchanan	Pitcher	Senior	Kings Ridge Christian	Tough in clutch situations
Guillermo Granier	Pitcher	Junior	Holy Innocents'	Can be lethal on the mound
Kyle Hilton	Pitcher	Sophomore	Savannah Christian	He will only get better
Austin Ross	Pitcher	Senior	Mt. Paran Christian	A tough guy to beat
Nick Swanson	Pitcher	Senior	Mt. Paran Christian	Excels on mound and at plate
Cole Tillotson	Pitcher	Junior	Providence Christian	Does his job well
Jack Alexander	Catcher	Senior	Mt. Paran Christian	Excellent bat, better arm and glove
Trey Ham	Catcher	Junior	Tattnall Square	Makes pitchers look good
Gavin Bloodworth	Infielder	Senior	First Presbyterian Day	Can hit, pitch and play defense
Tre' Douglas	Infielder	Junior	Eagles Landing Christian	Two-sport star is impressive
Logan Fink	Infielder	Senior	Tattnall Square	Pitchers have tough time getting him out
Ben Gobbel	Infielder	Senior	Pinecrest Academy	Tough hitter to get out
Luke Laskey	Infielder	Senior	Tattnall Square	Quietly puts up impressive numbers
Will Patota	Infielder	Senior	Pinecrest Academy	Can hit for contact or power
Luke Depiero	Outfielder	Senior	Walker	Does so many things well
Tres Gonzalez	Outfielder	Junior	Mount Vernon Presbyterian	Quietly one of the best
Austin Marchman	Outfielder	Senior	Tattnall Square	His bat gets runners home
Ryan McCrorie	Outfielder	Senior	Holy Innocents'	Excellent hitter and defender
John McNair	Outfielder	Senior	Holy Innocents'	Tough hitter and pitcher
Kaden Blankenship	Designated Hitter	Junior	Calvary Day	Gets the job done
Kendall Logan Simmons	Utility	Senior	Tattnall Square	Just a pure athlete

Second Team

Pitchers – Trey Felt, Sr., Prince Avenue Christian; Ben Keever, Sr., Holy Innocents'; Jackson Kelley, Sr., Walker; Banks Massey, Sr., Brookstone; Luke Persons, Sr., Whitefield Academy; Ronny Piepmeier, Sr., North Cobb Christian; Garrett West, Sr., First Presbyterian Day; **Catchers** – Richard Hill, Sr., Brookstone; Bret Madren, Jr., Saint Francis; **Infielders** – Omar Daniels, Sr., George Walton; Joe Douglas, Sr., Aquinas; Landon Jones, Sr., Hebron Christian; Austin Knowles, Sr., Athens Christian; Ethan Scott, Sr., Aquinas; Michael Wein, Sr., Kings Ridge Christian; **Outfielders** – Chance Litchfield, Sr., Calvary Day; Brooks Mitchell, Jr., Saint Francis; Patrick O'Rourke, Jr., Pinecrest Academy; Stewart Stamper, Sr., Wesleyan; Danny Westbury, Sr., Prince Avenue Christian; **Designated Hitter** – Trey Lingo, Sr., Brookstone; **Utility** – John Paul, Sr., Aquinas

REGION 1-1A

Region Favorite: Seminole County

Players to Watch

- 1B/RHP – Joshua Beck, Sr., Pelham
- RHP – Will Bush, Sr., Baconton Charter
- SS/RHP – Spencer Culp, Jr., Baconton Charter
- INF/RHP – Will Durham, Sr., Miller County
- OF/LHP – Aubrey Johnson, Jr., Seminole County
- INF/RHP – Dylan Johnson, Jr., Miller County
- C/3B – Gage Jones, Jr., Seminole County
- 3B/RHP – Dakota McEntyre, So., Pelham
- C/3B/RHP – Chase Smith, Jr., Seminole County
- 1B – Grant Smithwick, Jr., Baconton Charter
- C/RHP/INF – Kohler Tabb, Sr., Miller County
- 3B/RHP – Cale Whigham, Jr., Pelham
- OF/RHP – Gunner Wisham, Jr., Pelham

BACONTON CHARTER BLAZERS

Head Coach: Bubber Birdsong

Assistant Coach (s): John Pinson, Brantley Morgan

2017 Record: 20-7

Returning Starters: SS/RHP Spencer Culp (Jr., R/R); RHP Will Bush (Sr., R/R); 1B Grant Smithwick (Jr., R/R); C/RHP Stone Pinson (Jr., R/R); INF/OF Logan Cain (Sr., R/R); 2B/3B Jackson Bostick (So., R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Caleb Jones (So.); 3B Brady Ragan (So.); P Bo Schwarm (Jr.); 1B Jacob Smith (So.); OF Hayden Hatcher (So.); OF Seth Gay (So.); OF Lawson Creech (So.)

Season Outlook: In a rebuilding season, Baconton won 20 games and made the state playoffs last season. The Blazers welcome back six starters, including top pitchers Will Bush and Spencer Culp. First baseman Grant Smithwick, catcher Stone Pinson, Logan Cain and Jackson Bostick return to lead the offense.



Spencer Culp
Baconton Charter



Will Bush - Baconton Charter
Photo by Tim Morse

BAKER COUNTY BEARS

Head Coach: Collins Tensley

Survey not returned

CALHOUN COUNTY COUGARS

Head Coach: John Taylor

Survey not returned

CHATTAHOOCHEE COUNTY PANTHERS

Head Coach: Caleb Horvath (new)

Survey not returned

MILLER COUNTY PIRATES

Head Coach: Eddie Whitaker

Assistant Coach (s): Scott Warren, Landon Holmes

2017 Record: 20-8

Returning Starters: C/RHP/INF Kohler Tabb (Sr., 5-10, 200, R/R); OF/RHP Christian Bruner (Sr., 5-10, 165, R/R); INF/RHP Will Durham (Sr., 6-0, 170, R/R); INF/RHP



Dylan Johnson
Miller County



Kohler Tabb
Miller County

Dylan Johnson (Jr., 6-0, 205, L/R); INF/RHP Logan Phillips (So., 5-10, 160, R/R); INF/OF/C Kyle Alexander (So., 5-10, 170, R/R); 1B/LHP Will Cook (So., 6-2, 190, L/L)

Other Returning Players: 1B/LHP Isaiah Roland (Jr., 5-6, 165, R/L); INF/OF Ben Roland (So., 5-6, 150, R/R); OF/C Roland Godfrey (So., 5-10, 170, R/R); 3B/1B Adam Bunch (So., 6-0, 190, R/R)

Season Outlook: The Pirates will be expected to compete for the region crown as seven starters are back from last season's squad that won 20 games. All-state performer Kohler Tabb returns as well as infielder/pitcher Will Durham and infielder/pitcher Dylan Johnson.

MITCHELL COUTY EAGLES

Head Coach: John Williford (new)

Survey not returned

PATAULA CHARTER PANTHERS

Head Coach: Matthew Fowler (new)

Survey not returned

PELHAM HORNETS

Head Coach: Shawn Sharp (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Tony Drinkwater, Billy Thompson

2017 Record: 15-15

Returning Starters: 1B/RHP Joshua Beck (Sr., R/R); OF/RHP Noah Russ (So., R/R); OF/RHP Ivey Russ (Sr., R/R); U Eric Davis (Sr., L/R); OF/RHP Gunner Wisham (Jr., R/R); 3B/RHP Cale Whigham (Jr., R/R); 3B/RHP Dakota McEntyre (So., R/R)

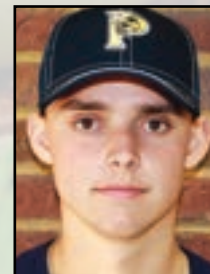
Other Returning Players: OF Taye Daniels (Sr., R/R); OF Darrell Starling (So., R/R); C/LHP/1B Levi Jacobs (So.,



Joshua Beck
Pelham



Dakota McEntyre
Pelham



Cale Whigham
Pelham



Gunner Wisham
Pelham

REGION 2-1A

Region Favorite: Charlton County

Players to Watch

OF – Mitch Baxter, Sr., Charlton County
RHP/3B – Tyler Beckham, Sr., Charlton County
OF/RHP – Trey Bess, So., Telfair County
SS/RHP – Ian Blankenship, Sr., Telfair County
OF/LHP – Brandon Brownlee, Jr., Wilcox County
SS/RHP – Tyler Chesser, Jr., Charlton County
LHP/OF – Jaydon Coleman, Sr., Wilcox County
OF/RHP – Colt Cox, Sr., Echols County
RHP/OF – Ryan Dopson, Sr., Telfair County
OF – Reid Fletcher, Sr., Irwin County
INF/RHP – Cole Giddens, Sr., Charlton County
RHP/1B – Jack Gowen, Sr., Charlton County
SS/RHP – Wil Hudson, Jr., Irwin County
C – Trevor Knowles, Jr., Charlton County
1B/RHP – Duncan Lutz, Jr., Clinch County
CF – Tyler Moore, Sr., Turner County
2B/RHP – Hunter Morey, Jr., Echols County
C – Dawson Searcey, Sr., Lanier County
OF/RHP – Manuel Silva, Sr., Atkinson County
OF/LHP – Warren Stovall, Jr., Clinch County
SS/RHP – Hunter Sutton, Sr., Atkinson County
RHP/INF – Carter Sylvester, Sr., Turner County
2B – Dylan Taylor, Sr., Atkinson County
3B – Jack Thompson, Sr., Clinch County
SS – Noah Tuten, Sr., Lanier County
1B/RHP – Cam Vickers, Jr., Irwin County
CF – KJ Williams, Sr., Charlton County
INF – Harrison Wood, Sr., Telfair County

ATKINSON COUNTY REBELS

Head Coach: Tommy Adcock (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Akeem Thomas, Patrick Downs

2017 Record: 10-15

Returning Starters: 1B/RHP Trey Wood (Sr., 5-10, 200, R/R); SS/RHP Hunter Sutton (Sr., 6-0, 165, R/R); 2B Dylan Taylor (Sr., 5-7, 150, R/R); OF/RHP Manuel Silva (Sr., 5-10, 160, R/R); OF Cole Lott (Jr., 6-0, 205, R/R); RHP/OF/SS Markel Jordan (So., 5-9, 150, R/R)

Other Returning Players: C Slade White (So., 5-9, 150, R/R); SS/RHP Ethan Batten (So., 5-10, 160, R/R); 1B Coby Rodriguez (So., 6-2, 180, L/R); OF Tayshon Northcutt (So., 5-10, 200, R/R); OF Brayden Smith (So., 5-11, 140, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP/SS Travonte Williams (Fr., 6-2, 155, R/R); OF Eli Meeks (Fr., 6-1, 165, R/R); C Willis Mancil (Fr., 5-10, 145, R/R); 1B/OF/LHP Bryan Taft (Fr., 5-10, 180, R/L); OF/LHP Ty'Quez Rowles (Fr., 5-11, 145, R/L)

Season Outlook: Longtime coach Tommy Adcock takes over at Atkinson County and seeks to help the Rebels get back into postseason contention. Six starters are back, including a talented corps of seniors. Look for a strong group of sophomores and freshmen to compete for playing time.

R/L); RHP Shyleak Stanley (So., R/R); C/2B Thalik Hudson (So., R/R)

Top Newcomers: OF Kobe Russell (Sr., R/R); OF Jonah Martin (Sr., R/R); SS Payne Hunter (Jr., R/R); C Doug Curles (So., R/R); 2B/RHP Jacob Poitevint (Fr., R/R)

Season Outlook: New coach Shawn Sharp inherits seven returning starters and should have the Hornets chasing a playoff berth. Pitching should be solid as Cale Whigham and Gunner Wisham lead a talented rotation. A trio of seniors – Joshua Beck, Ivey Russ and Eric Davis – will lead the team.

QUITMAN COUNTY HORNETS

Head Coach: Ian Johnson

Survey not returned

RANDOLPH-CLAY RED DEVILS

Head Coach: Jeff Thornton

Survey not returned

SEMINOLE COUNTY INDIANS

Head Coach: Truette Johnson

Assistant Coach (s):

Wes Williams, Tony Buczek

2017 Record: 27-2

Returning Starters:

C/3B Gage Jones (Jr., 6-0, 165, R/R); C/3B/RHP Chase Smith (Jr., 6-0, 190, R/R); OF/LHP Aubrey Johnson (Jr., 5-8, 160, R/L); OF/LHP Garrett Taylor (So., 5-9, 160, L/L);

INF/RHP Peyton Price (So., 5-9, 160, R/R); 2B/OF Logan Jones (Jr., 5-8, 170, R/R)

Other Returning Players: INF Hunter Hodges (So., 5-11, 160, R/R); 1B Payton Bishop (Jr., 5-9, 200, R/R); OF Ethan Scarborough (Sr., 5-10, 210, R/R); OF Brock Dixon (Jr., 5-11, 190, R/R); INF/RHP Issac Long (So., 5-9, 170, R/R)

Top Newcomers: INF/RHP Ty Moulton (Fr., 5-11, 160, R/R); OF Hunter Jones (Fr., 5-8, 150, R/R); C Jacob Jarvis (Fr., 5-9, 200, R/R); OF Aiden Sherrer (Fr., 5-9, 150, R/R); INF/OF Kase Barber (Fr., 5-10, 160, R/R)

Season Outlook: Seminole County went through the regular season undefeated last year enroute to the region title. The Indians will be a little bit younger this season, but six starters return. Juniors Gage Jones, Chase Smith and Aubrey Johnson return to lead the team.



Aubrey Johnson
Seminole County



Chase Smith
Seminole County

STEWART COUNTY KNIGHTS

Head Coach: Kelvin Smith

Survey not returned

TERRELL COUNTY GREENWAVE

Head Coach: Pat Cuff

Survey not returned

WEBSTER COUNTY BOBCATS

Head Coach: James McCullough

Survey not returned

CHARLTON COUNTY INDIANS

Head Coach: Thad Marchman

Assistant Coach (s):

Stephen Jackson, Jarrod Cisco, Barrett Wilkes

2017 Record: 27-8

Returning Starters:

RHP/1B Jack Gowen (Sr., 6-1, 190, R/R); INF/RHP Cole Giddens (Sr., 6-2, 190, R/R); OF Mitch Baxter (Sr., 5-11, 170, L/R); RHP/3B Tyler Beckham (Sr., 6-0, 170, R/R); CF KJ Williams (Sr., 6-0, 160, L/L); SS/RHP Tyler Chesser (Jr., 5-10, 180, R/R); C Trevor Knowles (Jr., 5-11, 170, R/R); OF Quinton Lambert (Sr., 5-10, 175, L/R)

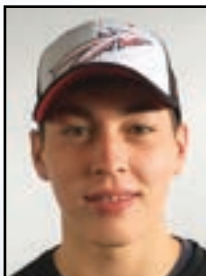
Other Returning

Players: LHP/OF Chase Billington (Sr., 6-2, 165, L/L); RHP/U AJ Baker (Jr., 5-11, 165, L/R); OF Lance Horne (Jr., 5-9, 155, R/R); C/RHP Kobi Lucree (So., 5-8, 150, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP/U Trent Grey (Fr., 5-8, 150, R/R); C/P Connor Nelson (Fr., 5-10, 165); U Israel Gilyard (Sr., 5-10, 180, R/R)

Season Outlook:

Charlton County has lost in the state semifinals the past two years. The Indians could make another deep run as most of the team returns from last year. Pitcher Jack Gowen (8-1, 0.39 ERA) and Tyler Beckham (6-1, 1.38 ERA) lead an experienced rotation, while infielder Cole Giddens and outfielders Mitch Baxter and KJ Williams as well as Tyler Chesser and Trevor Knowles return to lead the offense.



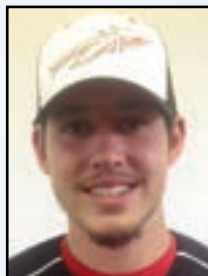
Mitch Baxter
Charlton County



Tyler Beckham
Charlton County



Tyler Chesser
Charlton County



Cole Giddens
Charlton County



Trevor Knowles
Charlton County



KJ Williams
Charlton County

CLINCH COUNTY PANTHERS

Head Coach: Lee Douglas

Assistant Coach (s):

Sean Mercer, Rance Morgan, Jeremy Edwards

2017 Record: 16-13

Returning Starters:

3B Jack Thompson (Sr., 5-9, 225, R/R); INF/RHP Landon Howling (Jr., 5-9, 150, R/R); 1B/RHP Duncan Lutz (Jr., 6-5, 180, R/R); OF/LHP



Duncan Lutz
Clinch County



Warren Stovall
Clinch County

Warren Stovall (Jr., 5-10, 160, B/L); INF Brence Cason (Jr., 5-10, 170, R/R); U Thomas Lankford (Jr., 5-8, 165, R/R); OF/C Darius Dorsey (So., 6-0, 195, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Chat Lacey (Sr., 5-10, 160, R/R); LHP/1B Michael Gilbreth (Sr., 6-1, 170, L/L); C/OF Laneston Hendricks (Jr.,

6-0, 180, R/R); C/OF Kyle Hendricks (So., 5-11, 175, R/R); RHP/3B Josh Griffis (So., 5-10, 165, R/R)

Top Newcomers: INF/RHP Josh Peagler (So., 5-9, 160, R/R); U/RHP Jallen Griffis (Jr., 5-10, 160, R/R); INF/RHP Landan Allen (Fr., 5-7, 150, R/R)

Season Outlook: Clinch County finished strong last season and the team hopes to carry that momentum into this spring. Seven starters are back, including junior pitchers Duncan Lutz and Warren Stovall. Senior third baseman Jack Thompson returns to lead the offense.

ECHOLS COUNTY WILDCATS

Head Coach: Jay Hamlett (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Chad McLeod, Shelby Hill

2017 Record: 5-18

Returning Starters: 2B/RHP Hunter Morey (Jr., 5-9, 165, R/R); 3B/RHP Cuyler Cox (So., 5-10, 180, R/R); OF/RHP Colt Cox (Sr., 6-0, 180, R/R); 1B/RHP Weston Roberts (Jr., 6-4, 210, R/R); OF Colby Tucker (Jr., 5-8, 175, R/R); SS/RHP Jacob Rogers (So., 5-8, 175, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Colby George (So., 5-10, 175, R/R); 1B Noah Edgy (Fr., 5-7, 160, R/L)

Top Newcomers: C/SS Weston McLeod (Fr., 5-9, 170, R/R); C/SS Landon Jones (Fr., 5-9, 170, R/R); 3B Kole Church (Fr., 5-8, 170, R/R); OF Brent Mashburn (Fr., 5-7, 175, R/R)

Season Outlook: First-year coach Jay Hamlett takes over and inherits a young but talented team. The senior class is small, but the good news is that six starters return. One of those is outfielder/pitcher Colt Cox. Second baseman/pitcher Hunter Morey also returns after a promising sophomore campaign.

IRWIN COUNTY INDIANS

Head Coach: Drew Tankersley

Assistant Coach (s):

Jared Luke, Nathan Martin, Casey Soliday

2017 Record: 21-8

Returning Starters:

OF Reid Fletcher (Sr., 5-8, 150, R/R); SS/RHP Will Hudson (Jr., 5-8, 160, R/R); 1B/RHP Cam Vickers (Jr., 6-1, 210, L/R); OF/RHP Zach Smith (So., 5-9, 160, R/R); OF Chad Miller (So., 6-0, 175, R/R)

Other Returning Players: C Hunter Spires (Sr., 5-11, 185, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP/INF/C Brodie Chestnutt (Fr., 6-2, 175, R/R)

Season Outlook: Irwin County should be back in the postseason picture as five returning starters are back. The senior class is small, but look for a solid group of underclassmen to step up and contribute. A pair of all-state players from last season return in junior shortstop/pitcher Will Hudson and first baseman/pitcher Cam Vickers.



Will Hudson
Irwin County



Cam Vickers
Irwin County

LANIER COUNTY BULLDOGS

Head Coach: Rob Brunel (new)

Assistant Coach (s): DJ Johnson

2017 Record: 22-6

Returning Starters: SS Noah Tuten (Sr., 5-10, 180, R/R); C Dawson Searcy (Sr., 5-10, 180, B/R); LHP Dylan Metts (Sr., 5-10, 165, R/L); RHP Trenton Berryhill (Sr., 6-4, 220, L/R); RHP Evan Culpepper (Jr., 5-10, 220, R/R); OF Byron Connell (Jr., 5-11, 160, R/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP/SS Andrew Rowland (Sr., 5-10, 180,

R/R); LHP/OF Tyler Alexander (Sr., 5-8, 150, R/L); OF Quenton Jenkins (Jr., 5-8, 150, R/R)
Top Newcomers: 1B Will Berryhill (Fr., 6-3, 235, R/R)
Season Outlook: After winning 22 games last season, Lanier County has some rebuilding to do. However, the cupboard isn't bare. Six starters are back, including all-state shortstop Noah Tuten (.404 avg., 19 RBIs) and catcher Dawson Searcy. A solid corps of juniors will be expected to help out.



Dawson Searcy
Lanier County



Noah Tuten
Lanier County

Cameo Blankenship (So., 6-0, 185, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Evan Adams (Sr., R/R); OF/RHP Jacob Mullis (Jr., R/R); 1B/LHP Noah Harrelson (So., L/L); C/RHP Trey Wright (So., R/R); OF/RHP Jude King (So., R/R)

Season Outlook: Look for Telfair County to pick up from where they left off last season. The Trojans made a solid run through the postseason and most of that talent returns, including all-state shortstop/pitcher Ian Blankenship (.417 avg., 36 RBIs; 5-2, 3.50 ERA) and pitcher/outfielder Ryan Dopson (8-2, 2.37 ERA). Infielder Harrison Wood and outfielder Trey Bess also return.



Trey Bess
Telfair County

TELFAIR COUNTY TROJANS

Head Coach: T.J. Mercer

Assistant Coach (s):

Benny Livingston, Justin Macella, Hart Mizell

2017 Record: 22-12

Returning Starters: SS/RHP Ian Blankenship (Sr., 5-9, 175, R/R); RHP/OF Ryan Dopson (Sr., 5-10, 185, R/R); INF Harrison Wood (Sr., 5-10, 165, R/R); OF/RHP Bryce Yawn (Sr., 5-11, 165, R/R); OF/RHP Trey Bess (So., 5-9, 160, R/R); INF/RHP Jarrett Dopson (So., 5-10, 180, R/R); INF/RHP



Ian Blankenship
Telfair County



Ryan Dopson
Telfair County

TURNER COUNTY REBELS

Head Coach: Zach Mauldin (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Tanner Crawford

2017 Record: 7-19

Returning Starters: CF Tyler Moore (Sr., 5-9, 165, R/R); RHP/INF Carter Sylvester (Sr., 6-3, 180, R/R); U/RHP Chandler Crawford (Sr., 5-8, 135, R/R); RF Alex Richter (Sr., 5-8, 145, R/R); SS/RHP Jacob Shiver (Jr., 5-10, 165, R/R); C/RHP Colby Hancock (So., 5-11, 165, R/R); OF Sunny Patel (Jr., 5-9, 150, R/R)

Other Returning Players: LF/RHP Michael Bass (Sr., 5-10, 160, R/R); 1B Tyler Dorminey (So., 5-9, 205, R/R); OF/RHP Troy Harris (Sr., 5-9, 165, R/R); RF Geno Sanchez (Sr., 5-8, 130, R/R)

Top Newcomers: 3B/RHP Paxton Furney (Fr., 5-8, 150, R/R); RF/RHP Jace Wynn (Fr., 5-9, 155, R/R); OF Jay Norris (Fr., 5-9, 150, R/R); 1B Zack Brown (Fr., 5-10, 220, R/R)



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³ IDProtect service is a personal identity theft protection service available to personal checking account owners and their joint account owners. The service is available to non-publicly traded businesses and their business owner(s) listed on the account (service not available to employees or authorized signers who are not owners).

Service is not available to a "signer" on the account who is not an account owner. Service is not available to clubs, organizations and/or churches and their members, schools and their employees/students. For revocable grantor trusts, the service is available only when a grantor is serving as a trustee and covers the grantor trustee(s). For all other fiduciary accounts, the service covers the beneficiary, who must be the primary member (Fiduciary is not covered).

⁴ Special Insurance Program Notes: The descriptions herein are summaries only. They do not include all terms, conditions and exclusions of the policies described.

Please refer to the actual policies for complete details of coverage and exclusions. Insurance is offered through the company named on the certificate of insurance.

Insurance products are not a deposit; not FDIC insured; not an obligation of bank; and not guaranteed by bank or any affiliated entity.



Season Outlook: Former assistant coach Zach Mauldin takes over and inherits a solid group of returners which should help the Rebels improve upon last year's record. Seven starters are back and the senior class is solid. Keep an eye on outfielder Tyler Moore (.450 avg.) and infielder/pitcher Carter Sylvester (.343 avg., 17 RBIs).

WILCOX COUNTY PATRIOTS

Head Coach: Stephen McDuffie

Assistant Coach (s): Cote Jones, Tommy Fuller

2017 Record: 9-17

Returning Starters: LHP/OF Jaydon Coleman (Sr., 5-6, 160, L/L); INF Kam Bruce (Sr., 5-8, 165, L/R); OF Phillip Fisher (Sr., 5-8, 160, R/R); OF/LHP Brandon Brownlee (Jr., 6-3, 185, R/L); INF/RHP Cam Patterson (So., 5-11, 180, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF/RHP Trey Bishop (Sr., 6-3, 165, R/R); OF Gage Anderson (Sr., 5-8, 175, R/R); INF Seth Satterfield (Sr., 5-8, 150, R/R); OF Landon Ledford (Sr., 5-9, 170, R/R); INF/RHP Clark Gaines (Jr., 5-10, 160, R/R); OF Desmond Tisdol (So., 5-11, 205, R/R); OF Azavion Deans (So., 6-1, 215, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP/SS/3B Branson Owens (Fr., 5-11, 200, R/R); C/2B/RHP Rhett Davis (Fr., 5-7, 165, R/R); SS/RHP Brock White (Fr., 5-9, 150, R/R)

Season Outlook: Wilcox County should be much better this spring. A talented senior class returns to lead the way. Pitcher/outfielder Jaydon Coleman, infielder Kam Bruce and outfielder Phillip Fisher give the Patriots a solid group to build around. Keep an eye on a solid group of underclassmen who should contribute.

REGION 3-1A

Region Favorite: Savannah Christian

Players to Watch

INF/RHP – Justin Anderson, Sr., Savannah Christian

INF – Kaden Blankenship, Jr., Calvary Day

SS/RHP – Jarrett Brown, Jr., Savannah Christian

P/2B/CF/C – Johnathan Brown, Sr., Wheeler County

2B/SS – Cody Collins, Sr., ECI

1B – Cam Crosby, Jr., Savannah Christian

INF – Tyler Hagan, Sr., Portal

INF/RHP – Kyle Hilton, So., Savannah Christian

SS/RHP – Zach Hodges, Sr., Claxton

OF/1B/LHP – Bowdon James, Sr., Jenkins County

SS/RHP – Cheney Knight, Sr., Jenkins County

LHP/OF – Chance Litchfield, Sr., Calvary Day

OF – Drew Malphrus, Sr., Savannah Christian

1B – Keegan McCoy, Sr., Portal

RHP/3B – Peyton Mercer, Sr., ECI

SS/RHP – Trent Morris, Sr., Treutlen

LHP/OF – Brooks Norton, Sr., Johnson County

C/2B/RHP – Conner Strickland, Sr., McIntosh County Academy

RHP/INF – Duren Wood, Sr., Johnson County

CALVARY DAY CAVALIERS

Head Coach: Phillip Lee

Assistant Coach (s):

John Carr, Derward Poole, Austin Masters, Ross Howard, Gary Allen

2017 Record: 19-11

Returning Starters:

LHP/OF Chance Litchfield (Sr., 5-11, 180, L/L); INF Thomas Carver (So., 5-8, 170, R/R); INF Caden Thomas

(Jr., 5-10, 170, R/R); INF Kaden Blankenship (Jr., 6-1, 185); P/OF Jay Wetherington (So., 5-8, 150); P/OF Jacob Phillips (Jr., 5-9, 160); P/INF/C Lance Longgear (Jr., 5-10, 185); P/INF/C Grant Thomas (Jr., 6-1, 175)

Other Returning Players: INF Zach Clay (Jr., 5-8, 150, L/R); RHP/INF Joseph Townsend (Jr., 5-10, 165, R/R); OF Josh Martin (Sr., 5-9, 160, R/R); LHP/OF Chase Thomas (Sr., 5-10, 175, L/L)

Top Newcomers: RHP/OF Jared McKinney (Jr., 6-3, 200, R/R); LHP/INF Wade McCullough (Sr., 6-0, 200, L/L)

Season Outlook: Calvary Day will be expected to contend for the Region 3-A title with a talented corps of returning starters. Pitching should be strong with the return of left-hander Chance Litchfield. Infielder Kaden Blankenship (.407 avg.) returns to lead the offense. The Cavaliers may still be a year away from reaching their full potential.



Kaden Blankenship
Calvary Day



Chance Litchfield
Calvary Day



Jay Wetherington
Calvary Day

CLAXTON TIGERS

Head Coach: Andy Yanzetich

Assistant Coach (s): Kyle Vliet, Shannon Sapp, Matt Brady, Jason Lane, Tony Welch

2017 Record: 6-14

Returning Starters: SS/RHP Zach Hodges (Sr., 6-0, 170, R/R); C/RHP Hunter Boyett (Jr., 6-0, 185, R/R); OF Kelstin Morgan (Sr., 5-10, 210, L/R); 3B/RHP Dylan Joyner (Jr., 6-0, 180, R/R); INF/OF/RHP Myles Freeman (Jr., 5-11, 175, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Chase Cameron (Jr., 6-0, 160, R/R); INF Tobey Burgess (Jr., 6-0, 180, R/R)

Top Newcomers: 2B/SS Karon Taylor (Fr., 5-8, 155, R/R); 1B/RHP Deoveon Hayward (So., 5-10, 220, R/R)

Season Outlook: Claxton will look to get things turned around after a disappointing season in 2017. The Tigers will be a relatively young team this spring. Five starters are back, including shortstop Zach Hodges and outfielder Kelstin Morgan.

ECI BULLDOGS

Head Coach: Brooks Collins (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Chad Harper, Adam Robertson

2017 Record: 19-7

Returning Starters: RHP/3B Peyton Mercer (Sr., 6-3, 210, R/R); 2B/SS Cody Collins (Sr., 5-10, 175, R/R); OF Tiernan Johnson (Sr., 6-0, 200, R/R); RHP/1B Hunter Henry (Jr., 5-10, 225, R/R); RHP/SS Tyler Flakes (Jr., 5-8, 165, R/R); C Chandler Shockley (Jr., 5-9, 215, R/R)



Peyton Mercer
ECI

Other Returning Players: RHP/1B Reid Jones (So., 6-2, 200, R/R); OF Rhett Harper (So., 5-7, 150, R/L); 1B Zane Taylor (So., 5-8, 170, L/L); RHP/OF John Joiner (So., 5-9, 165, R/R); C C.J. Mincey (So., 5-7, 150, R/R)

Season Outlook: Former assistant Brooks Collins takes over and inherits six returning starters. The Bulldogs will contend for a playoff spot again. Seniors Peyton Mercer and Cody Collins return as well as junior pitcher/first baseman Hunter Henry. Keep an eye on this program.

JENKINS COUNTY EAGLES

Head Coach: Zac Clark

Assistant Coach (s): Wendell Clark, Caleb Pressley

2017 Record: 13-16

Returning Starters: SS/RHP Cheney Knight (Sr., 5-11, 180, L/R); C/3B Cannon Griffin (Sr., 5-11, 195, R/R); 3B/1B Garrison Underwood (Sr., 6-1, 225, R/R); OF/1B/LHP Bowden James (Sr., 5-9, 190, L/L); INF/RHP Hagan Jenkins (Jr., 6-1, 180, R/R); 3B/C Colby Broxton (Jr., 6-0, 190, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF/2B J.C. Williams (Jr., 6-0, 145, R/R); OF Luis Benitez (Sr., 5-9, 160, R/R); INF Drew Collier (Jr., 6-0, 175, R/R)

Top Newcomers: OF Anthony Wilson (So., 5-9, 150, R/R); INF Justin Gray (Fr., 5-9, 160, R/R)

Season Outlook: Jenkins County begins its second season under coach Zac Clark. The Eagles have six returning starters, four of them seniors. Pitcher/shortstop Cheney Knight and outfielder/first baseman/pitcher Bowdon Jones return to lead the offense.

JOHNSON COUNTY TROJANS

Head Coach: Chuck Beale

Assistant Coach

(s): Andrew Claxton, Marrion Flowers

2017 Record: 22-13

Returning Starters:

INF/C Brett Caneega (So., R/R); INF/RHP Adam Hooks (So., R/R); INF/OF Dre Darrisaw (So., R/R); LHP/OF Brooks Norton (Sr., L/L); RHP/OF Hunter Wilkerson (Sr., R/R); RHP/INF Duren Wood (Sr., R/R); RHP/INF Mikey Estes (Sr., R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Jake Edwards (Sr., R/R); OF Christian McAfee (So., R/R); OF/RHP Trey Cherry (Jr., R/R); OF Chase Braswell (Sr., R/R); OF Cameron McLendon (So., R/R); INF Rhett Wombles (So., R/R); OF Tyler Hood (Jr., R/R)

Top Newcomers: LHP/OF Jax Scott (Fr., L/L); RHP/INF Aiden Greenway (Fr., R/R); INF Mackey Giddens (Fr., R/R); C Landry Thompson (Fr., R/R); OF Sam Jackson (Fr., R/R)

Season Outlook: A good mixture of talent returns for Johnson County who should challenge for a playoff berth again. Seven starters are back, including all-state performer Brooks Norton. Pitcher Duren Wood leads a talented pitching rotation. Look for a solid group of underclassmen to step forward.

MCINTOSH COUNTY ACADEMY BUCCANEERS

Head Coach: Jesse Barfield (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Sam Ellis

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2017 Record: 11-10

Returning Starters: C/2B/RHP Conner Strickland (Sr., 5-8, 170, R/R); INF/OF Denver Anthony (So., 5-8, 185, R/R); 1B/RHP Joseph Handley (Jr., 6-0, 200, R/R)

Other Returning Players: 2B Vincent Simmons (Jr., 5-7, 160, R/R); OF Elijah Ellison (So., 5-5, 140, R/R); OF Jacob Lingle (Jr., 5-8, 185, L/L); OF Zach Gordon (So., 6-2, 190, R/R)

Top Newcomers: 3B/C Dalton McClellan (Fr., 5-10, 145, R/R); SS/2B Miles Wood (Fr., 5-6, 140, R/R); 1B/RHP Eric Lewis (Fr., 6-3, 200, R/R); 3B/OF Donathan Fable (Fr., 5-10, 140, R/R)

Season Outlook: Former Wayne County assistant Jesse Barfield takes over and seeks to help the Buccaneers improve upon last season's finish. McIntosh will be relatively young. The good news is that three starters are back, including senior Conner Strickland who gives the Bucs a solid player to build around.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY EAGLES

Head Coach: Chase Young

Survey not returned

PORTAL PANTHERS

Head Coach: Dennis Moore

Assistant Coach (s): Linwood McNure, Colton Harrelson, Zach Kramme

2017 Record: 10-16

Returning Starters: INF Tyler Hagan (Sr., R/R); 1B Keegan McCoy (Sr., R/R); U Cody Clark (Jr., R/R); INF Fischer Oglesby (So., R/R); OF Blaise Murphy (So., R/R); C Dusten Upton (Jr., R/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP/INF Blake Hendrix (So., R/R); OF Noah Adams (So., R/R); C Brennen Smith (So., R/R); OF Seth Parrish (So., R/R); OF Roy Burroughs (So., R/R); RHP Dax Reddick (So., R/R)

Top Newcomers: INF/RHP Chandler Sheffield (Fr., R/R); 1B Collin Thompson (Fr., R/R)

Season Outlook: Portal will look to improve upon last year's record as six starters are back, including seniors Tyler Hagan and Keegan McCoy. The Panthers will need some juniors and sophomores to step forward if they want to contend for a postseason berth. The senior class is small.

SAVANNAH CHRISTIAN RED RAIDERS

Head Coach: Carl Carter

Assistant Coach (s):

Matt Oglesby, Alan Brannen, Wes Garcia

2017 Record: 34-3

Returning Starters: SS/RHP Jarrett Brown (Jr.); INF/RHP Kyle Hilton (So.); 1B Cam Crosby (Jr., R/R); INF/RHP Justin Anderson (Sr., R/R); OF Drew Malphrus (Sr.); INF Nick Arrowood (Sr., R/R); INF Mark Langston (Jr., R/R)

Other Returning Players: 1B/LHP Jacob Wingand (Sr., L/L); INF Jack Deal (Sr., R/R); OF/LHP Mark Carlson (Sr., L/L); OF/RHP Tyler Richards (Sr., R/R); INF Garret Bradley (Jr., L/R); OF James Portzer (So., R/R)

Season Outlook: After the Raiders won their first state title last year, look for the defending state champions to be back in the hunt again as seven starters return, including pitchers Kyle Hilton and Jarrett Brown. First baseman Cam Crosby returns to lead the offense.



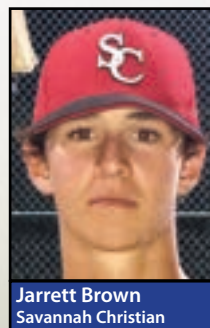
Adam Hooks
Johnson County



Brooks Norton
Johnson County



Duren Wood
Johnson County



Jarrett Brown
Savannah Christian



Kyle Hilton
Savannah Christian

SAVANNAH COUNTRY DAY HORNETS

Head Coach: Dan Garofano

Survey not returned

TREUTLEN VIKINGS

Head Coach: Brad Collins

Assistant Coach (s): Jim Rowland

2017 Record: 20-13

Returning Starters: SS/RHP Trent Morris (Sr., R/R); OF Payton Brooks (Sr., R/R); OF/LHP Alston Phillips (Sr., L/L); OF/2B Chris Maddox (Sr., R/R); 2B/SS Griffin Beall (Sr., R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Timothy Rine (Sr., R/R); C/3B Trevor Byrd (Jr., R/R); OF/RHP Haden Youmans (Jr., R/R); 1B/RHP Colby Mimbs (Jr., R/R); OF Kevin Wheeler (Jr., R/R); 1B/LHP Chris Lovett (So., L/L); OF Carson Richardson (So., R/R)

Top Newcomers: C/RHP Logan Hughes (Fr., R/R); 2B Micah Morris (Fr., R/R); OF Chaz Avery (Fr., R/R); 1B Ben Foskey (Fr., R/R)

Season Outlook: The Vikings won 20 games last year in what was supposed to be a rebuilding season. Look for Treutlen to be in the postseason chase again. Five senior starters are back. Trent Morris and Alston Phillips will lead a solid pitching rotation. Outfielder Payton Brooks and infielders Chris Maddox and Griffin Beall return to lead the offense.

WHEELER COUNTY BULLDOGS

Head Coach: Gary Beasley

Assistant Coach (s): Donnie Horton, Todd Vann

2017 Record: 8-16

Returning Starters: P/2B/CF/C Johnathan Brown (Sr.); P/CF/SS Torrence Parker (Sr.); 1B/P Ian Bridges (Sr.); SS/P Ty Butler (Jr.); RF/P Ty Vann (Jr.); LF Zach Horton (Jr.); 3B/P Chance Stokes (Jr.); P/C/3B Ethan Stokes (Jr.)

Season Outlook: The Bulldogs welcome the return of eight starters and should have a chance to improve upon last season's record. A trio of seniors will lead the way – Johnathan Brown, Torrence Parker and Ian Bridges. Keep an eye on Ty Butler and Ty Vann who were promising as sophomores last year.

REGION 4-1A

Region Favorite: Brookstone

Players to Watch

RHP/1B – Cameron Belcher, Sr., Schley County

RHP/1B – Garrett Brown, Sr., Manchester

SS – Matt Brown, Sr., Crawford County

3B/RHP – Keshun Crawl, Sr., Manchester

RHP – Matthew Deloach, Sr., Taylor County

C – Richard Hill, Sr., Brookstone

RHP/OF – Chance Hollomon, Sr., Schley County

C/1B – Wade Law, Sr., Schley County

INF/RHP/C – Trey Lingo, Sr., Brookstone

LHP/INF – Banks Massey, Sr., Brookstone

2B – Camron Vanlerberghe, Sr., Schley County

SS – Gunnar Watson, Sr., Taylor County

CF/RHP – Aspen Williams, Sr., Manchester

BROOKSTONE COUGARS

Head Coach: Vince Massey

Assistant Coach (s):

Greg Mathis,

Brandon Koehler

2017 Record: 20-13

Returning Starters: OF

Jeremiah Burgess (Jr.,

6-0, 175, R/R); C Richard

Hill (Sr., 6-0, 190, R/R);

INF/RHP/C Trey Lingo

(Sr., 6-2, 210, R/R); RHP/

INF Jack Little (Jr., 6-2,

170, R/R); LHP/INF Banks Massey (Sr., 6-1, 225,

L/L); RHP/INF Bo Voltz (Sr., 5-9, 165, R/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP/OF Jack Peek

(Sr., 6-4, 220, R/R); C Hap Perkins (So., 6-2, 170,

R/R); RHP/INF/C Jackson Milliner (Jr., 6-2, 210,

R/R); RHP/OF Ben Sloan (Jr., 5-11, 165, R/R)

Season Outlook: Brookstone could be the team to beat in Region 4-1A this spring. Six starters are back, including left-handed pitcher Banks Massey (5-2, 2.80 ERA). Catcher Richard Hill (.358 avg., 23 RBIs) and versatile Trey Lingo (.319 avg., 6 HR, 25 RBIs) return to lead the offense. A solid group of underclassmen will also be expected to contribute.



Richard Hill
Brookstone



Trey Lingo
Brookstone



Banks Massey
Brookstone

CRAWFORD COUNTY EAGLES

Head Coach: Craig Puckett

Assistant Coach (s): Derick Smith

2017 Record: 13-11

Returning Starters: SS Matt Brown (Sr., 5-8, 160, R/R); 3B David Goodman (Jr., 6-2, 175, R/R); C Tyler Peckinpaugh (So., 6-2, 180, R/R)

Other Returning Players: C Ethan Crosby (So., 6-2, 205, R/R); 1B Donovan Hudson (So., 6-1, 190, L/L); 2B Austin Darley (Jr., 5-9, 150, R/R); RHP Adison Kemp (Jr., 5-11, 160, R/R); LHP Nick Peavy (Jr., 5-9, 150, L/L); OF Caleb Gregory (So., 5-10, 160, R/R)

Top Newcomers: 3B/RHP Levi Hammick (Fr., 5-10, 180, R/R)

Season Outlook: The Eagles will need some underclassmen to step up this season to approach last season's success. The senior class is small and only three starters are back. One of the team's returning starters is senior shortstop Matt Brown.

DOOLY COUNTY BOBCATS

Head Coach: Quinnen Peavy

Survey not returned

GREENVILLE PATRIOTS

Head Coach: Ryan Daniel (new)

Survey not returned

HAWKINSVILLE RED DEVILS

Head Coach: Will Conner (new)

Survey not returned

MACON COUNTY BULLDOGS

Head Coach: Randall Jump (new)

Survey not returned

MANCHESTER BLUE DEVILS

Head Coach: Bari Brown

Assistant Coach (s): Ches Owens

2017 Record: 13-13

Returning Starters: 3B/RHP Keshun Crawl (Sr., R/R); CF/RHP Aspen Williams (Sr., R/R); OF Waderrian Hill (Sr., R/R); 1B/RHP Garrett Brown (Sr., L/R); OF Ridge Creamer (Sr., R/R); SS/RHP Brandon Redd (Jr., R/R); INF/C/RHP Noah Braddy (So., R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Travius Couch (Sr., R/R); OF/C Jarrett Shelton (Sr., R/R); 2B/RHP Javoris Jones (So., R/R); SS/RHP Troy Wimmer (Jr., R/R); OF Rodrick Ford (So., R/L)

Top Newcomers: LHP/1B Evan Stiner (Fr., L/L); C/RHP/INF Michael Spence (Fr., R/R); INF/OF/RHP Wyderius Prather (Fr., R/R)

Season Outlook: An excellent group returns for Manchester who should have a chance to be much better this spring and contend for a postseason berth. Seven starters are back, five of them seniors. Keep an eye on 6-foot-7 standout Garrett Brown and outfielder Aspen Williams who had strong junior seasons.



Garrett Brown
Manchester

MARION COUNTY EAGLES

Head Coach: Trey Reeves

Survey not returned

SAINT ANNE-PACELLI VIKINGS

Head Coach: Brent Benefield (new)

Survey not returned

SCHLEY COUNTY WILDCATS

Head Coach: Chuck Cheek

Assistant Coach (s):

William Rooks,

Jody Sellars

2017 Record: 34-2

Returning Starters:

C/1B Wade Law (Sr., 6-1, 240, R/R); RHP/1B Cameron Belcher (Sr., 6-2, 190, R/R); 2B Camron Vanlerberghe (Sr., 5-10, 170, R/R); RHP/OF

Chance Hollomon (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/R); INF Jordan Hall (Jr., 5-9, 160, L/R)

Other Returning Players: LHP/1B Dylan Windham (Jr., 5-9, 190); RHP/OF Ashton Goodin (Jr., 6-5, 180); OF Dakota Knight (Sr., 5-8, 150); OF/SS Garrett Peavy (So., 5-11, 170); OF/LHP Trent Bivins (So., 6-0, 160, R/L); P/1B Lorne Barineau (Jr., 5-11, 175); C/3B William Hardin (Jr., 6-0, 175)

Top Newcomers: P/SS Dylan Taylor (Fr., 6-0, 170)

Season Outlook: The defending state champions have some key positions to fill. Some underclassmen must step forward quickly. Five starters are back, including senior Wade Law (.340 avg., 12 2B).



Cameron Belcher
Schley County



Camron Vanlerberghe
Schley County



Wade Law - Schley County
Photo by Tim Morse

If the young Wildcats develop and mature during the season, Schley County could be dangerous come postseason time.

TAYLOR COUNTY VIKINGS

Head Coach: Mark Wilson

Assistant Coach (s):

Dane Smith, Bob Yevak

2017 Record: 21-5

Returning Starters: SS Gunnar Watson (Sr., 6-3, 200, L/R); RHP Matthew Deloach (Sr., 6-5, 200, R/R); DH Jacob Pounds (Sr., 5-9, 240, R/R); 3B Tanner Allen (So., 5-9, 170, L/R); 2B Carter

Albritton (Jr., 5-10, 165, R/R); C Conner Tharpe (Jr., 6-2, 180, R/R); OF Ezra Cummings (Sr., 5-10, 170, R/R); RHP Evan Horton (So., 5-10, 150, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Timmy Queen (Jr., 5-9, 150, R/R); OF Josh Madore (Jr., 5-9, 155, R/R); LHP/OF Ryan Tharpe (So., 5-6, 145, L/L); 2B Cy Scott (So., 5-5, 130, R/R); 1B Diego Paz (Jr., 5-7, 200, R/R)

Season Outlook: This could potentially be one of the best Taylor County teams in the school's history as eight starters return. The Vikings boast one of the state's top players in shortstop Gunnar Watson (.510 avg., 9 HR) and one of the state's top pitchers in Matthew Deloach (11-2). Keep an eye on some talented underclassmen.



Matthew Deloach
Taylor County



Gunnar Watson
Taylor County

REGION 5-1A

Region Favorite: Holy Innocents'

Players to Watch

CF – Anthony Angelety, Sr., Our Lady of Mercy

LHP/1B – Noah Campbell, Sr., Strong Rock Christian

RHP/RF – Parker Dean, Sr., Landmark Christian

2B – Tre' Douglas, Jr., Eagles Landing Christian

RHP/3B – Jack Friedman, Sr., Paideia

OF/LHP – Tres Gonzalez, Jr., Mt. Vernon Presbyterian

SS/RHP – Guillermo Granier, Jr., Holy Innocents

C – Nick Hassan, Jr., Strong Rock Christian

OF – Josh Holt, Sr., Eagles Landing Christian

RHP – Ben Keever, Sr., Holy Innocents

LHP/OF – Daniel Livnat, Sr., Weber

OF – Nate McCollum, So., Eagles Landing Christian

LHP/OF – Ryan McCrorie, Sr., Holy Innocents

OF/RHP – John McNair, Sr., Holy Innocents

RHP – Jack Mullin, Jr., Mount Vernon Presbyterian

LHP/OF – Zach Negin, Sr., Weber

INF – Landon Parks, Jr., Wesleyan

SS/RHP – Trey Shirah, Sr., Strong Rock Christian

OF – Stewart Stamper, Sr., Wesleyan

OF – Charlie Taylor, So., Wesleyan

1B – Mark Tucker, So., Wesleyan

C/2B – Alex VanLandingham, So., Mt. Vernon Presbyterian

DREW CHARTER EAGLES

Head Coach: Chuck Johnson

Survey not returned

EAGLES LANDING CHRISTIAN CHARGERS

Head Coach: Seth Graham

Assistant Coach (s): Douglas Campbell, Scott King, Bo Rush, Steve Mowery

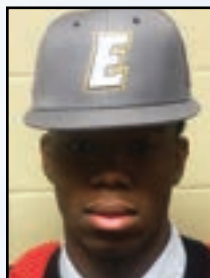
2017 Record: 11-18

Returning Starters: 3B Johnathan

Youngblood (Jr., 5-11, 210, R/R); SS Jon Paul Wheeler (Jr., 5-10, 180, R/R); 2B Tre' Douglas (Jr., 6-2, 180, R/R); 1B Chris Johnson (Jr., 6-2, 170, R/R); C Caleb Mowery (So., 5-10, 165, R/R); CF Nate McCollum (So., 5-10, 160, R/R); RF Josh Holt (Sr., 5-9, 165, L/L)

Other Returning Players: RHP Mason East (Sr., 5-11, 180, R/R); RHP Brayden Rush (Jr., 5-11, 195, R/R); LHP Jack Buckley (Jr., 5-10, 160, L/L)

Season Outlook: The 2017 campaign was very uncharacteristic for Eagles Landing Christian. Look for this spring to be much better. Seven starters are back, including senior outfielder Josh Holt. Infielder Tre' Douglas also returns. The Chargers will still be a relatively young team.



Tre' Douglas
Eagles Landing Christian

FULTON LEADERSHIP GRYPHONS

Head Coach: Tujan Thompson

Survey not returned

GALLOWAY SCOTS

Head Coach: Doug Sams

Survey not returned

HOLY INNOCENTS' GOLDEN BEARS

Head Coach: D.C Aiken

Assistant Coach (s): Jay Hood, Dan Healy, Ben DeSantis, Shane Owens

2017 Record: 28-6

Returning Starters: SS/RHP Guillermo Granier (Jr., 6-1, 175, R/R); INF Matt Meadows (Sr., 5-9, 175, B/R); RHP Blake Morain (Sr., 5-11, 175, R/R); OF/RHP John McNair (Sr., 6-0, 175, R/R); C William Goldberg (Sr., 5-8, 160, R/R); LHP/OF Ryan McCrorie (Sr., 5-10, 175, L/L); RHP Ben Keever (Sr., 6-2, 205, R/R); RHP/INF Caleb Ketchup (So., 5-10, 160, R/R)

Other Returning

Players: RHP/1B Dylan Jones (Jr., 6-2, 225, R/R); RHP/1B Freddie Reams (So., 6-2, 210, R/R); RHP Brett Adams (Jr., 6-1, 200, R/R); RHP/OF Sam Aiken (So., 5-10,



Guillermo Granier
Holy Innocents'



Ben Keever
Holy Innocents'



Ryan McCrorie
Holy Innocents'



John McNair
Holy Innocents'

180, R/R); INF Will Rautenstrauch (Jr., 5-10, 145, R/R); RHP/INF Matt Davis (So., 5-10, 150, R/R)

Season Outlook: Holy Innocents' should be expected to challenge for the region title again as eight starters are back from last year's state semifinal squad. Pitching should be solid with the return of Guillermo Granier and Ben Keever. Outfielders Ryan McCrorie and John McNair return to lead the offense. The senior class is strong.

LANDMARK CHRISTIAN WAR EAGLES

Head Coach: Mark Miller

Assistant Coach (s): Chip McAllister, Wayne Brantley

2017 Record: 16-11

Returning Starters: SS/RHP Aaron Northcutt (Jr., 6-1, 175, B/R); 3B/RHP Jack Richards (Jr., 5-11, 170, R/R); LF/RHP Joshua Tidwell (Jr., 5-10, 160, R/R); C Nathan Orr (Jr., 5-10, 165, R/R); RHP/RF Parker Dean (Sr., 6-0, 185, R/R); CF/2B Austin Brooks (Sr., 5-8, 150, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Zack Shaw (Jr., 5-10, 165, R/R); 2B Jack Seppings (So., 5-9, 140, R/R); SS/RHP Noah Wilson (So., 5-10, 150, R/R); 1B Jackson Patman (Jr., 5-10, 230, R/R); SS Jonathan Lauria (Jr., 5-11, 165, R/R)

Season Outlook: The War Eagles return six starters and will seek to make a run at the postseason this spring. The bulk of the team are underclassmen, but the good news is that pitcher/outfielder Parker Dean and outfielder/second baseman Austin Brooks return.

MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN MUSTANGS

Head Coach: Jamey Woods

Assistant Coach (s): Travis Rutkiewicz, Rusty Jones

2017 Record: 20-13

Returning Starters: OF/LHP Tres Gonzalez (Jr., 6-0, 160, L/L); INF Chayton Mowrey (Sr., 5-9, 160, R/R); RHP/OF/1B Alex Thomas (So., 5-11, 155, R/R); INF/OF/RHP Ben Blair (Sr., 5-11, 175, R/R); C/2B Alex VanLandingham (So., 6-0, 155, R/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP Jack Mullin (Jr., 5-11, 150, R/R); RHP John Fears (Sr., 6-0, 160, R/R); RHP/3B Jackson Denney (So., 5-10, 170, R/R); OF/LHP Nate Anderson (So., 5-9, 145, L/L); RHP/OF Ben Tyrrel (Jr., 6-0, 175, R/R); INF Alex Mette (So., 5-11, 160, R/R)

Top Newcomers: INF/RHP Cole Forrest (Fr., 5-10, 155, R/R); LHP/1B Jack Sims (Fr., 5-11, 160, L/L)

Season Outlook: Mount Vernon won 20 games last year and made the state playoffs. Look for the Mustangs to be back in the chase this spring. Five starters are back, including all-state outfielder/pitcher Tres Gonzalez. Pitching should be a strength. Keep an eye on catcher/second baseman Alex VanLandingham who was promising last year.



Tres Gonzalez
Holy Innocents'

OUR LADY OF MERCY BOBCATS

Head Coach: Jon Antoine

Assistant Coach (s): Ben Howze, Andrew McGovern

2017 Record: 5-15

Returning Starters: CF Anthony Angelety (Sr., 6-0, 180, R/R); C/3B Marco Hodges (Sr., 5-10, 190, B/R); RHP/3B Deaglan Malally (Sr., 5-10, 190, R/R); RF/2B Jais Toles (Jr., 5-10, 175, R/R); 1B/C Johnathan Glover (Jr., 5-10, 175, R/R); LF/RHP Darrell Johnson (So., 6-1, 165, R/R); 2B/RF Michael Scott (So., 5-6, 140, R/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP/2B Liam Malally (So., 5-7, 145, R/R); 1B/LHP Bennie Sherman (Sr., 6-0, 170, L/L); RF/1B Chase Wright (Sr.,

6-0, 185, R/R); CF/2B Kameron Mincy (So., 5-7, 135, R/R); 1B/RF Adrian Andrews (Sr., 5-10, 220, R/R)

Top Newcomers: OF Cole Sanak (Fr., 5-10, 130, R/R); SS/OF/LHP Jacob Bodkin (Fr., 5-10, 160, R/L); 3B/OF Chase DeLoach (Fr., 5-8, 140, R/R)

Season Outlook: Our Lady of Mercy should have a chance to improve upon last season's finish as seven starters are back. A trio of seniors will be expected to lead the way – outfielder Anthony Angelety, catcher/third baseman Marco Hodges and pitcher/third baseman Deaglan Malally.

PAIDEIA PYTHONS

Head Coach: Jonathan Petrash (new)

Survey not returned

STRONG ROCK CHRISTIAN PATRIOTS

Head Coach: Toby Evans (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Adam Fine, Tripp Lawrence

2017 Record: 19-11

Returning Starters: LHP/1B Noah Campbell (Sr., 6-0, 185, L/L); SS/RHP Trey Shirah (Sr., 6-0, 185, R/R); 2B/RHP Carson Varnadoe (Sr., 5-9, 160, R/R); C Nick Hassan (Jr., 5-10, 185, R/R); CF Tiger Borom (So., 5-8, 175, L/L); LF Kenny Mills (Jr., 5-9, 170, R/R); 1B Brayden Eidson (Jr., 6-2, 170, L/L); RHP Joseph Eichelberger (So., 5-10, 185, R/R); RHP/INF Andrew Gord (Jr., 6-0, 175, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Chase Reed (Sr., 5-9, 165, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP Caleb Boutwell (Fr., 6-0, 150, R/R); OF Jakhi Swanson (Sr., 5-9, 160, R/R); RHP David Chenoweth (So., 6-1, 185, R/R); C Hunter Lawrence (Fr., 5-10, 160, R/R); INF Alan Fluellen (So., 5-8, 150, B/R); RHP Spencer Wilkins (Fr., 6-0, 180, R/R)

Season Outlook: Longtime Eagles Landing High coach Toby Evans returns to the diamond to lead Strong Rock Christian, who had its most successful season in 2017 since joining the Georgia High School Association. The Patriots have a good nucleus of returning talent, including seniors Noah Campbell, Trey Shirah and Carson Varnadoe.

WEBER RAMS

Head Coach: Scott Seagraves

Assistant Coach (s): Alan NeSmith

2017 Record: 5-14

Returning Starters: LHP/OF Daniel Livnat (Sr., 6-0, 170, R/L); OF Eli Katz (Sr., 5-10, 175, R/L); LHP/OF Zach Negin (Sr., 5-10, 160, L/L); RHP/OF Eli Weiner (Jr., 6-0, 175, R/R); LHP/OF/1B Lior Granath (Sr., 5-10, 165, L/L); RHP/3B Sam Fialkow (Sr., 5-10, 175, R/R); C/INF Levi Zindler (Sr., 5-9, 160, R/R); RHP/2B Noah Trugman (Sr., 5-9, 155, R/R); 1B Jason Zarge (Sr., 6-2, 180, R/R); C/RHP Austin Margol (So., 5-10, 185, R/R)

Other Returning Players: LHP/OF Brett Blase (Jr., 5-10, 170, L/L); OF Justin Cobb (Sr., 5-9, 150, R/R); C Benji Reitman (So., 5-8, 140, R/R)

Top Newcomers: SS Micah Frankel (Jr., 5-9, 155, R/R); 1B/RHP Jason Seagraves (Fr., 6-0, 155, R/R)

Season Outlook: Look for Weber to be much better this spring as 10 starters are back from last season. The senior class is solid and will be expected to lead the way. The pitching staff should be a team strength as seniors Daniel Livnat and Zach Negin as well as junior Eli Weiner returns.

WESLEYAN WOLVES

Head Coach: Brian Krehmeyer

Assistant Coach (s): Michael Mann, Kevin O'Leary, Matt Plate

2017 Record: 15-16

Returning Starters: OF Matt Adent (Sr., 6-0, 170, R/R); INF Drake Bursa (Sr., 6-0, 190, R/R); RHP Christopher Lee (Sr., 6-1, 175, R/R); OF Stewart Stamper (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/R); C Billy Stepp (Sr., 6-0, 185, R/R); INF Don Daniel (Jr., 6-0, 160, L/R); INF Landon Parks (Jr., 6-0, 170, R/R);

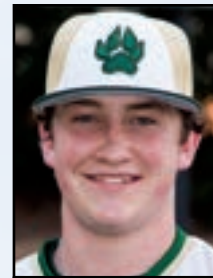
OF Charlie Taylor (So., 5-11, 175, R/R); 1B Mark Tucker (So., 5-7, 155, B/R)

Other Returning

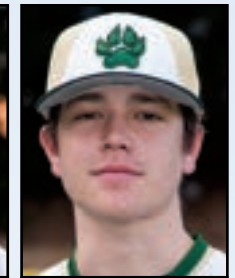
Players: RHP/INF Carson Pavelec (Sr., 6-2, 165, R/R); RHP/INF John Smith (Jr., 6-2, 190, R/R)

Season Outlook:

Wesleyan looks to shake off a disappointing season in 2017. The Wolves return a good nucleus of players, including a solid senior class. Wesleyan must find some consistent pitching. Outfielder Stewart Stamper, infielder Landon Parks, catcher Charlie Taylor and second baseman Mark Tucker return after solid seasons last spring.



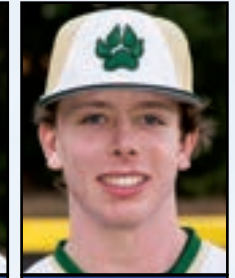
Drake Bursa
Wesleyan



Stewart Stamper
Wesleyan



Billy Stepp
Wesleyan



Charlie Taylor
Wesleyan

REGION 6-1A

Region Favorite: Mount Paran Christian

Players to Watch

CF/RHP – CJ Ackles, Sr., Mt. Zion-Carrollton

C/SS – Jack Alexander, Sr., Mount Paran Christian

INF/RHP – Isaac Bouton, Jr., Fellowship Christian

OF/1B – Trajan Brown, Sr., Bowdon

RHP – Carter Buchanan, Sr., Kings Ridge Christian

RHP – Zach Camp, Sr., Walker

SS – Jacob Cendoya, Sr., Mount Pisgah Christian

LHP/OF – Luke Depiero, Sr., Walker

SS/2B – Ben Gobbel, Sr., Pinecrest Academy

2B – Ryan Higginbotham, Jr., Kings Ridge Christian

1B/LHP – Caleb Hopkins, Sr., Gordon Lee

SS/RHP – Cy Horton, Jr., Bowdon

INF – Carter Huffman, Sr., Whitefield Academy

OF/RHP – Christian Humphrey, Sr., Christian Heritage

RHP/OF – Jackson Kelley, Sr., Walker

C – Bret Madren, Jr., St. Francis

1B/3B – Nic Mauer, Sr., Darlington

OF/C – Hayden Milling, Sr., Kings Ridge Christian

C – Dylan Minghini, Sr., Gordon Lee

OF – Brooks Mitchell, Jr., St. Francis

RHP/OF – Patrick O'Rourke, Jr., Pinecrest Academy

1B/3B – Will Patota, Sr., Pinecrest Academy

RHP – Luke Persons, Sr., Whitefield Academy

3B/OF/RHP – Cole Phillips, Sr., Trion

RHP/1B – Ronny Piepmeier, Sr., North Cobb Christian

OF – Coleton Pitcock, Sr., Bowdon

OF – Tanner Railey, Jr., Trion

RHP/OF – Austin Ross, Sr., Mount Paran Christian

RHP/3B – Kurtis Royalty, Sr., Fellowship Christian

RHP – Jake Schertel, Sr., Mount Pisgah Christian

1B – Nick Swanson, Sr., Mount Paran Christian

OF/RHP – Austin Thompson, Sr., Gordon Lee

SS – Michael Wein, Sr., Kings Ridge Christian

RHP/OF – Nolan Wilson, Sr., Darlington

LHP/1B/OF – Blaine Woody, Jr., Trion

BOWDON RED DEVILS

Head Coach: Todd Eubanks

Assistant Coach (s):

Jeremiah Yates, Chad Brown, Jordan Banks

2017 Record: 19-13

Returning Starters:

OF/1B Trajan Brown (Sr., 6-4, 190, L/L); OF Coleton Pitcock (Sr., 5-10, 185, R/R); OF/RHP Kyle Franklin (Sr., 5-11, 180, R/R); 1B Noah Langley

(Sr., 6-3, 200, R/R); C Leighton Ivey (Sr., 5-9, 170, R/R); 2B/RHP Hunter Braswell (Jr., 5-9, 170, R/R); SS/RHP Cy Horton (Jr., 6-2, 170, R/R); 3B/RHP Trent Estes (Jr., 5-11, 180, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF/2B Jarrett Stephens (Sr., 5-9, 170, R/R); OF Nathan Powell (Sr., 5-10, 160, R/R); 3B/C/RHP Braden Bowen (So., 6-1, 190, R/R); OF Ben Fortson (So., 5-9, 175, R/R)

Top Newcomers: OF Wesley Scales (Jr., 5-8, 160, R/R); OF/LHP Luke Rainwater (Fr., 5-8, 160, L/L)

Season Outlook: Injuries hurt Bowdon last season, forcing some underclassmen to step into starting roles. The Red Devils hope that experience will pay off this year. Eight returners are back, including all-region performers Trajan Brown and Coleton Pitcock. Bowdon will need to develop more pitching to contend. Junior right-hander Cy Horton leads a young but talented staff.



Trajan Brown
Bowdon



Coleton Pitcock
Bowdon

CHRISTIAN HERITAGE LIONS

Head Coach: Jamey Middleton

Assistant Coach (s): Chad Ikerd, Cody Long, Doug Davis

2017 Record: 4-20

Returning Starters: OF Conner Haynes (So., 5-9, 160, R/R); INF/RHP Syd Reece (Jr., 5-9, 175, R/R); 1B/OF Nathan Davis (So., 5-10, 190, L/L); OF/RHP Christian Humphrey (Sr., 5-8, 130, R/R); OF Will Brumlow (So., 5-8, 135, R/R); INF/C/RHP Zach Gentry (Jr., 5-7, 150, R/R); 2B/1B Mitchell Herndon (So., 6-0, 185, R/R)

Top Newcomers: 3B/RHP Nash Bingham (Fr., 6-0, 200, L/R); INF/RHP William Green (Fr., 6-0, 190, R/R); INF/C Drew Clements (So., 5-10, 170, L/R); OF/C Evan Lester (Fr., 6-1, 190, R/R)

Season Outlook: The Lions begin their second season under coach Jamey Middleton and should have a chance to improve upon last season's record. Seven starters are back. The senior class is small, but a solid group of juniors and sophomores will be expected to step forward.

DARLINGTON TIGERS

Head Coach: Matt Larry

Assistant Coach (s): Brant Evans, Brice Baker, Levi Austin

2017 Record: 11-14

Returning Starters: INF Trey Yunger (Jr., R/R); C/INF Zuker Campbell (Jr., R/R); INF Austin Cloud (Sr., R/R); INF Nic Mauer (Sr., R/R); RHP/OF Nolan Wilson (Sr., R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Adam Himes (Jr., R/R); RHP/1B Jack Druckenmiller (Sr., R/R); C Bailey Atkins (Jr., R/R); RHP/OF Kolin Rogers (So., R/R); RHP/OF Trysten Wright (So., R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP Tate Rutledge (So., R/R); RHP/U Lawson Brown (Fr., R/R); INF Lawson Goodwin (Fr., R/R); INF Aiden Cloud (Fr., R/R)

Season Outlook: After a disappointing finish in 2017, Darlington will look to turn things around this spring. Five starters return, including

senior infielder Nic Mauer and pitcher/outfielder Nolan Wilson. A talented group of underclassmen will be expected to contribute.

FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN PALADINS

Head Coach: Shawn Oliver

Assistant Coach (s): Mike McClain, Lane Perrins

2017 Record: 16-13

Returning Starters: RHP/3B Kurtis Royalty (Sr., 6-3, 230, L/R); RHP Nolan Lavergne (Sr., 5-10, 190, R/R); 1B Tony Tarabicos (Sr., 6-0, 195, R/R); RHP Hunter McMickle (Sr., 6-2, 180, R/R); 2B David Franco (Sr., 5-9, 150, R/R); INF/RHP Isaac Bouton (Jr., 5-10, 175, R/R); C Cameron Gill (Jr., 5-11, 185, R/R); OF Cody Tapley (Jr., 5-11, 160, R/R); INF/RHP Preston Joye (So., 5-10, 155, B/R)

Other Returning Players: OF/LHP Reed Bott (Jr., 6-1, 180, L/L); U Adam Rozeboom (So., 5-10, 160, R/R)

Season Outlook: The Paladins won 16 games in coach Shawn Oliver's first season last year. Look for Fellowship to make a run at the playoffs this spring. A wealth of talent returns, including pitcher/third baseman Kurtis Royalty and junior catcher Cameron Gill. Pitcher Nolan Lavergne and first baseman Tony Tarabicos return after strong junior seasons.

GORDON LEE TROJANS

Head Coach: Mike Dunfee

Assistant Coach (s):

Derek McDaniel, Zach Barnes, Zack Cobb

2017 Record: 28-8

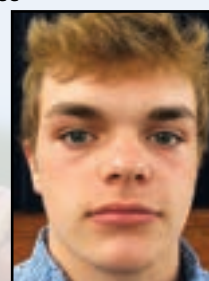
Returning Starters: OF/RHP Austin Thompson (Sr., R/R); C Dylan Minghini (Sr., R/R); 1B/LHP Caleb Hopkins (Sr., L/L); OF/LHP Mason Pettigrew (Sr., R/L); INF/RHP McCain Barbee (Sr., L/R); OF/U Justin Wooden (Jr., R/R); INF/RHP Hunter Hodson (Jr., R/R)

Other Returning Players: C/INF Chris Potter (Jr., R/R); 1B/RHP Logan Streetman (Jr., R/R); OF Braxton Ledford (Jr., R/R); OF/RHP Haven

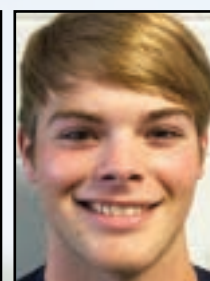
Howard (Jr., R/R); OF Timothy Whitsett (Jr., R/R); 1B/LHP Owen Frost (Jr., L/L); OF/RHP Beau Barrett (Jr., R/R)

Top Newcomers: INF/RHP Jake Wright (So., R/R); INF/RHP Will Sizemore (So., R/R); INF/RHP Weston Beagles (So., R/R); U Tucker Miller (So., L/R); U Lane Hughes (So., R/R)

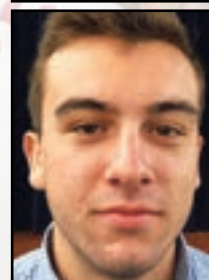
Season Outlook: After making it to the state championship series last season, Gordon Lee seeks to return. Seven starters are back, including standout pitcher Austin Thompson and catcher Dylan Minghini. The senior class is strong, but a talented junior class will also contribute.



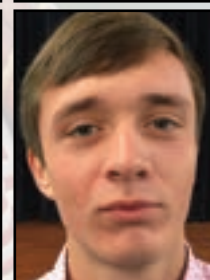
McCain Barbee
Gordon Lee



Caleb Hopkins
Gordon Lee



Dylan Minghini
Gordon Lee



Mason Pettigrew
Gordon Lee

KINGS RIDGE CHRISTIAN TIGERS

Head Coach: Dallas McPherson

Assistant Coach (s): Billy Henley, Eric Swegman

2017 Record: 21-10

Returning Starters: SS Michael Wein (Sr., B/R); OF Hayden Milling (Sr., R/R); 3B Jake Phillips (Sr., R/R); RHP Carter Buchanan (Sr., R/R); 2B Ryan Higginbotham (Jr., L/R)

Other Returning Players: 1B Will Pittman (Sr., R/R); OF Kaleb Harris (Jr., R/R); C Colin Gorman (Jr., R/R); RHP Robbie DeFelice (Sr., R/R); RHP Jack Ward (So., R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP/1B Davis Mortland (So., L/R); 3B Jon Rowling (Fr., R/R); C Nic Ferrer (Fr., R/R); RHP Alex Armstrong (So., R/R); OF/LHP Jake Roth (So., L/L); OF Trey Larkin (So., L/L)

Season Outlook: The Tigers should be in the region chase again after winning 21 games last year. If Kings Ridge can find a few more pitchers, they should have a chance to make another strong postseason run. Right-hander Carter Buchanan (6-3, 2.17 ERA) leads a young rotation, while Michael Wein, Hayden Milling and Ryan Higginbotham return to lead the offense.



Michael Wein
Kings Ridge Christian



Carter Buchanan - Kings Ridge Christian
Photo by Kings Ridge Christian

MOUNT PARAN CHRISTIAN EAGLES

Head Coach: Kyle Reese

Assistant Coach (s): Mike Hostetler, Kevin Cunane

2017 Record: 26-10

Returning Starters: C/SS Jack Alexander (Sr., 6-1, 195, R/R); 1B/RHP Nick Swanson (Sr., 6-2, 205, R/R); RHP/OF Austin Ross (Sr., 6-2, 190, R/R);



Jack Alexander
Mount Paran Christian



Austin Ross
Mount Paran Christian

3B/C Wood Kimbrough (Sr., 6-3, 210, R/R); CF/RHP Cameron Cantwell (Sr., 5-10, 175, R/R); OF/1B/LHP Kellum Rowan (Sr., 6-4, 210, R/L); LHP Zach Feldman (Sr., 5-9, 160, L/L)

Other Returning Players: U Trevor Brooks (Sr., 6-1, 200, R/R); RHP Trevor Cumberland (Jr., 6-0, 210, R/R); OF/1B Ben Parker (Jr., 6-2, 170, R/R); OF/RHP Davis Akin (Jr., 6-2, 200, R/R); RHP/CF/3B Andrew Bennett (So., 6-3, 195, R/R); SS Jack Ryan Wingler (So., 5-11, 160, R/R); OF Jake Williams (So., 5-10, 155, R/R)

Top Newcomers: OF/RHP Jackson Reese (Sr., 6-0, 210, R/R); 2B Noah Rymut (Jr., 5-9, 175, R/R); C/3B Matthew Foster (So., 5-9, 170, R/R); 3B/C Cole Spurlock (So., 5-10, 165, R/R); 3B/RHP/C Reed Jones (Fr., 5-10, 155, R/R)

Season Outlook: Mount Paran Christian should be in the thick of the region title chase as seven starters are back, including ace pitcher Austin Ross who won 11 games last year. Offensive leaders Jack Alexander (.380 avg., 6 HR, 35 RBIs) and first baseman Nick Swanson (.320 avg., 9 HR) return to lead the offense.

MOUNT PISGAH CHRISTIAN PATRIOTS

Head Coach: Mike Shaheen (new)

Assistant Coach (s): John O'Connor, Martin Elvington, Billy Willingham

2017 Record: 9-16

Returning Starters: SS Jacob Cendoya (Sr., 6-0, 190, R/R); RHP Jake Schertel (Sr., 5-10, 230, R/R); 3B James Addaman (Jr., 5-10, 175, R/R); 1B Charlie Smith (Sr., 6-1, 200, R/R); CF Jackson Grant (Sr., 5-10, 175, R/R); 2B Tommy Wagner (Sr., 5-9, 165, R/R)

Other Returning Players: C Justin Bartlett (So., 5-10, 170, R/R); LF Mikey Nardella (Jr., 5-9, 180, L/R); RF Tripp Shadburn (So., 5-10, 210, R/R); RHP Jake Rothermel (Sr., 6-2, 215, R/R); RF Conner Norwood (Jr., 6-1, 200, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP Reed Rothermel (So., 6-0, 175, R/R)

Season Outlook: Former Wesleyan coach Mike Shaheen returns to Georgia and inherits six returning starters. The Patriots should have a chance to improve upon last season's finish. A pair of seniors – shortstop Jacob Cendoya (.395 avg., 4 HR) and right-hander Jake Schertel (3-1, 2.57 ERA) – return to lead the way.

MOUNT ZION-CARROLLTON EAGLES

Head Coach: Randall Wright

Assistant Coach (s): Kenneth Brown, Ken Walker

2017 Record: 9-14

Returning Starters: CF/RHP CJ Ackles (Sr., 6-1, 190, R/R); INF/RHP Case Jiles (Jr., 5-10, 185, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF/LHP Andrew Powell (Jr., 5-8, 130, L/L)

Top Newcomers: LHP/OF Ray Cheeks (Jr., 5-10, 200, L/L); INF/RHP Eric Rodriguez (Fr., 5-6, 130, R/R); INF/RHP Wesley Lindler (Fr., 6-0, 170, R/R)

Season Outlook: Mount Zion will look to turn things around this spring. The Eagles welcome back a handful of starters, including three-sport standout CJ Ackles. Junior infielder/pitcher Case Jiles also returns after a promising spring last year. Some younger players will need to step forward.



CJ Ackles
Mount Zion-Carrollton

NORTH COBB CHRISTIAN EAGLES

Head Coach: Jimmy Keane

Assistant Coach (s): Josh Speck, Gil Navarro, Jim Bitner

2017 Record: 17-11

Returning Starters: RHP/1B Ronny Piepmeier (Sr., 6-0, 175, R/R); RHP/SS Ryan Suppa (Jr., 6-2, 175, R/R); OF Carter Guarino (Jr., 5-11, 160, R/R); RHP/OF Zach Turner (Jr., 6-2, 160, R/R); C Austin Clark (Sr., 5-10, 160, L/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Braden Murray (Sr., 5-10, 160, R/R)

Season Outlook: After winning 17 games last year and making the state playoffs, the Eagles may be in for a little rebuilding this spring. But the good news is that five starters are back, including all-state pitcher Ronny Piepmeier, who gives the team a chance to win each time he takes the mound. Look for a solid junior group to contribute.



Ronny Piepmeier
North Cobb Christian

PINECREST ACADEMY PALADINS

Head Coach: Ryan Weingart

Assistant Coach (s):

Ariel Polanco, Chuck Lusted, Chad Etmueller

2017 Record: 12-14

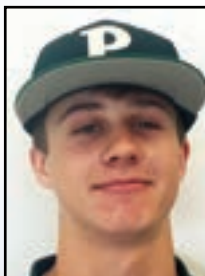
Returning Starters:

1B/3B Will Patota (Sr., L/R); SS/2B Ben Gobbel (Sr., R/R); RHP/OF Patrick O'Rourke (Jr., R/R); 3B/RHP Caleb Bohn (So., R/R); C Micky Mangan (Sr., R/R); OF/RHP Colby Mangan (Jr., R/R)

Other Returning Players: 2B/SS Jay Sorohan (So., L/R); OF/RHP Mason Carter (So., R/R); OF Patrick Sullivan (Jr., R/R); OF/C Tripp Hochman (So., R/R); OF/LHP Sawyer Huffstetler (So., L/L); OF/RHP Brooks Binkley (Sr., R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP/C/1B Joe Garcia (Jr., R/R); OF/RHP Jimmy Dinsmore (Jr., R/R)

Season Outlook: A wealth of talent returns and Pinecrest Academy should be in the playoff chase. Six starters are back, including infielders Will Patota and Ben Gobbel. Pitcher/outfielder Patrick O'Rourke and third baseman/pitcher Caleb Bohn return after strong seasons in 2017.



Ben Gobbel
Pinecrest Academy



Patrick O'Rourke
Pinecrest Academy



Will Patota
Pinecrest Academy

SAINT FRANCIS KNIGHTS

Head Coach: Brandon Bates

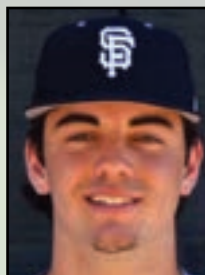
Assistant Coach (s):

Freddy Gorey, Steve Johnson

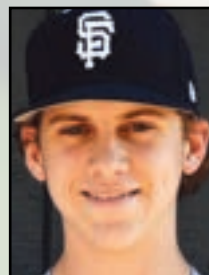
2017 Record: 11-21

Returning Starters: C

Bret Madren (Jr., 6-2, 210, R/R); 1B Kyle Bork (Jr., 6-4, 180, R/R); 2B Griffin Weaver (Jr., 5-6, 140, R/R); RHP/SS Zach Nozick (Sr., 6-1, 160, R/R);



Bret Madren
Saint Francis



Brooks Mitchell
Saint Francis

OF/RHP Matthew Fezza (Sr., 5-7, 205, L/R); OF Brooks Mitchell (Jr., 5-10, 150, L/R); RHP/OF Simon Herrick (Sr., 6-2, 205, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Bennett Drake (So., 5-9, 160, R/R); 1B Pablo Alvarez (Jr., 6-0, 185, R/R); C Jack Gruskin (Jr., 5-11, 200, R/R); OF Tate Gebhardt (Sr., 5-9, 160, R/R)

Top Newcomers: LHP/OF Will Clark (Jr., 5-11, 170, L/L); RHP Harry Cain (Fr., 6-1, 180, R/R); INF Brian Orkin (So., 5-10, 170, R/R)

Season Outlook: Look for St. Francis to improve upon last season's finish. Seven starters are back, including catcher Bret Madren and outfielder Brooks Mitchell. A solid group of juniors and sophomores will be expected to contribute.

TRION BULLDOGS

Head Coach: Jason Lanham

Assistant Coach (s): Trent Stamey, Joe McCoy

2017 Record: 18-10

Returning Starters: 3B/OF/RHP Cole Phillips (Sr., L/R); OF Tanner Railey (Sr., L/L); SS/2B/RHP Andy Allen (So., R/R); LHP/1B/OF Blaine

Woody (Jr., L/L); 3B/2B/RHP Hagan Willingham (Jr., R/R); DH/RHP/1B Jayce Bannister (Jr., R/R)

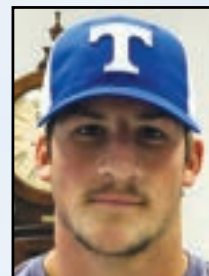
Other Returning

Players: OF Colt

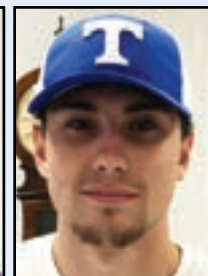
Trammell (So., R/R); C Brier Ingle (Jr., R/R); RHP/1B Logan Bicknell (Jr., R/R); OF Will Duncan (Sr., R/R); RHP/U Isaiah Parker (So., R/R)

Top Newcomers: 1B Tucker McCoy (Jr., R/R); RHP/U Cameron Carter (Sr., R/R)

Season Outlook: Trion will contend for the postseason this spring as six starters return. One of those returners is versatile senior Cole Phillips (.452 avg., 35 RBIs). Outfielder Tanner Railey (.357 avg., 15 RBIs) is also back. Keep an eye on junior Blaine Woody who had a solid sophomore campaign last season.



Cole Phillips
Trion



Blaine Woody
Trion

WALKER WOLVERINES

Head Coach: Mike Brady

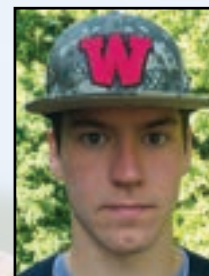
Assistant Coach (s):

Ray Boyer, Kevin Patterson, Rick Holifield

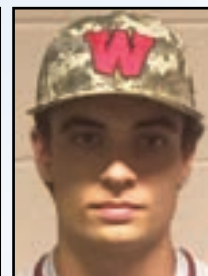
2017 Record: 13-17

Returning Starters:

RHP/OF Jackson Kelley (Sr., 6-0, 175, R/R); RHP/OF Zach Camp (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/R); LHP/OF Luke Depiero (Sr., 5-11, 160, L/L); RHP/C Stewart



Luke Depiero
Walker



Jackson Kelley
Walker

Palladino (Jr., 6-0, 185, R/R); INF Matt Condon (Sr., 6-3, 195, R/R); RHP/C Candler Boland (Sr., 6-2, 190, R/R); RHP/SS Gino Groover (So., 6-1, 180, R/R)

Other Returning Players: INF Andrew Miller (Jr., 5-10, 155, L/R); RHP/OF Jason Brock (Sr., 6-0, 160, R/R); INF/C Andrew Crowers (Jr., 6-0, 175, R/R); RHP/OF Justice Mace (Sr., 6-0, 180, R/R); LHP Brayton Boden (Sr., 5-11, 220, R/L); OF Joseph Vose (Sr., 6-0, 195, R/R); RHP/OF Andrew Walbel (Jr., 5-11, 160, R/R)

Top Newcomers: LHP Cole VanBruinisse (Jr., 6-4, 190, R/R); RHP/INF Mason Doyle (Sr., 6-0, 175, R/R); INF Ashley Cranfill (Sr., 5-5, 140, R/R)

Season Outlook: Walker made the state playoffs last season and should contend again this spring. Seven starters are back, including a solid corps of pitchers in right-hander Jackson Kelley, Zach Camp and left-hander Luke Depiero, who also returns to lead the Wolverines at the plate. The senior class is solid.

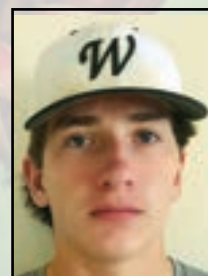
WHITEFIELD ACADEMY WOLFPACK

Head Coach: Kevin Nix (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Conrad Quiros

2017 Record: 18-10

Returning Starters: RHP Luke Persons (Sr., 6-2, 175, R/R); SS Carter Huffman (Sr., 5-11, 175, R/R); OF Jacob Pitts (Sr., 6-2, 175, R/R); 1B/DH Ian Kennedy (So., 6-2, 185, R/R); LHP Alex Carver (Sr., 6-1, 175, L/L); OF Russell Bell



Luke Persons
Whitefield Academy

(Jr., 6-0, 165, R/R); 2B Davis Eaton (So., 5-9, 155, R/R); OF/2B Carson Sanders (Jr., 5-9, 165, R/R)

Other Returning Players: C Braeden Swilley (So., 6-0, 220, R/R); OF Coleman Miller (Sr., 6-1, 215, R/R); C Patrick Rich (Sr., 5-11, 175, R/R); OF Jake Lewis (So., 5-9, 155, R/R)

Top Newcomers: INF Justin Tinch (So., 5-10, 155, R/R); INF Chase Watson (Fr., 5-9, 130, R/R); INF/OF Louis Brogan (So., 6-1, 155, R/R); OF Eric Little (Fr., 5-11, 150, R/R); LHP/1B Chandler Huffman (Fr., 5-8, 155, L/L)

Season Outlook: New coach Kevin Nix takes over and should help keep Whitefield Academy in the postseason chase. Eight starters are back, including standout pitcher Luke Persons (6-3, 2.42 ERA) and shortstop Carter Huffman (.386 avg., 18 RBIs). Outfielder Jacob Pitts also returns.

REGION 7-1A

Region Favorite: Tattnall Square

Players to Watch

RHP/SS – Cory Bivins, Sr., GMC

RHP/3B – Gavin Bloodworth, Sr., First Presbyterian Day

INF – Lake Couch, Sr., Lincoln County

1B – Joseph Douglas, Sr., Aquinas

1B/RHP – Logan Fink, Sr., Tattnall Square

SS/2B – Curt Gammon, Sr., Washington-Wilkes

INF – Brooks Gorman, So., Tattnall Square

C/RHP – Trey Ham, Jr., Tattnall Square

CF – Bobby Hatfield, Sr., Lake Oconee Academy

3B/RHP – Jalen Jenkins, Jr., Glascock County

OF – Ryan Jones, Sr., First Presbyterian Day

CF/LHP – Deven Justice, Jr., Glascock County

3B/RHP – Luke Laskey, Sr., Tattnall Square

OF/RHP – Destin Mack, Sr., Tattnall Square

OF – Austin Marchman, Sr., Tattnall Square

2B/RHP – Jacob Marshall, Jr., GMC

RHP/1B – Clifton Olmstead, Sr., Stratford Academy

INF – John Paul, Sr., Aquinas

OF/RHP – Carson Riley, Sr., Mount de Sales

INF/RHP – Ethan Scott, Sr., Aquinas

SS/3B – Logan Simmons, Sr., Tattnall Square

RHP/1B – Wes Tanner, Sr., Washington-Wilkes

LHP/OF – Garrett West, Sr., First Presbyterian Day

INF/RHP – Bradley White, Sr., Aquinas

AQUINAS IRISH

Head Coach: Andy Woodard (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Mike Paul, Grey Klosinski, Andrew Foushee, Gordon Scott

2017 Record: 20-6

Returning Starters: INF/RHP/C John Paul (Sr., 5-10, 160, R/R); INF/RHP Bradley White (Sr., 6-2, 205, R/R); INF/RHP Ethan Scott (Sr., 6-1, 200, R/R); 1B Joe Douglas (Sr., 6-1, 215, L/L); OF Jay Hagler (Sr., 6-0, 150, R/R); C John Parrish (Jr., 5-8, 175, R/R); INF/RHP Kam Brinson (Jr.,

5-10, 170, R/R); OF/RHP Brooks May (Sr., 5-9, 185, R/R); OF George Welch (Sr., 6-2, 210, R/R)

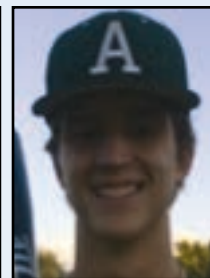
Other Returning Players: INF/RHP

Mick Doupe (Jr., 6-0, 170, R/R); OF Dawson Alexander (So., 6-0, 150, R/R); OF/RHP Ward Tyre (So., 6-0, 155, R/R); OF Brad Singer (So., 5-7, 145, R/R)

Season Outlook: First-year coach Andy Woodard takes over and inherits eight returning starters. The Irish will be expected to challenge for the playoffs. Ethan Scott leads a solid group of pitchers, while John Paul (.424 avg.) and Bradley White (.315 avg.) return to spark the offense.



Joe Douglas
Aquinas



John Paul
Aquinas



Ethan Scott
Aquinas

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN DAY VIKINGS

Head Coach: Denny Bryant

Assistant Coach (s): Jason Godbee, Michael Mimbs

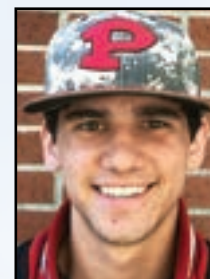
2017 Record: 12-15

Returning Starters: RHP/3B Gavin Bloodworth (Sr., 6-3, 230, R/R); C/3B Dalton Cox (Sr., 6-0, 190, R/L); LHP/OF Garrett West (Sr., 5-11, 175, L/L); OF Ryan Jones (Sr., 5-11, 170, R/R); 1B/RHP Tyler Mimbs (Sr., 6-1, 180, R/R); RHP/1B Michael Bakkar (Sr., 6-1, 240, R/R); RHP Noah Takac (Sr., 6-2, 190, R/R); 2B Chet Thompson (Jr., 5-9, 165, R/R); OF Harrison Aulds (So., 6-0, 180, R/R)

Other Returning Players: C/OF Jackson McCart (Jr., 5-10, 170, R/R); OF Rob Cunningham (Jr., 6-0, 185, R/R); 1B/RHP Benjamin Ryles (Jr., 5-9, 165, R/R); RHP/OF Gray Jones (Jr., 5-11, 175, R/R); OF James Hardin (Sr., 5-7, 180, R/R); RHP/1B Dalton Cox (So., 6-0, 185, R/R); C Griffin Brown (So., 5-10, 180, R/R)

Top Newcomers: SS Hudson Mimbs (Fr., 5-10, 165, R/R); RHP/3B Barrett Barkley (Fr., 6-1, 180, R/R); 2B/OF Parker Ingram (Fr., 5-6, 145, R/R)

Season Outlook: A wealth of talent returns after FPD struggled at times last season. Look for the Vikings to contend for a state playoff berth. Nine starters are back, including two of the region's top pitchers in Gavin Bloodworth and Garrett West. Outfielder Ryan Jones (.301 avg., 21 RBIs) returns to lead the offense.



Garrett West
First Presbyterian Day

GEORGIA MILITARY COLLEGE BULLDOGS

Head Coach: Rusty Courson (new)

Assistant Coach (s): Brian Humphries

2017 Record: 15-15

Returning Starters: RHP/SS Cory Bivins (Sr., 6-1, 190, R/R); 1B/LHP Jackson Carter (So., 5-6, 200, B/L); 3B/RHP Justin Alford (So., 5-6, 140, R/R); OF/RHP Michael Barnes (Jr., 6-0, 160, R/R); 2B/RHP Jacob Marshall (Jr., 5-11, 170, R/R)

Other Returning Players: 2B Derek Hayles (Sr., 5-5, 140, R/R); 1B/RHP Jontavious Byner



Cory Bivins
Georgia Military College

(Jr., 5-10, 195, R/R); OF Ryan Barsby (So., 5-7, 125, L/L); OF Rashod Hill (Jr., 5-8, 155, R/R); 1B Jacob Bright (Sr., 6-0, 235, R/R)

Top Newcomers: 3B/C Landon Courson (Fr., 5-11, 185, R/R); C/OF Mason Seymour (Fr., 5-10, 160, R/R)

Season Outlook: First-year coach Rusty Courson takes over and inherits five returning starters. One of those is pitcher/shortstop Cory Bivins. The senior class is small, but keep an eye on a solid corps of underclassmen. Second baseman/pitcher Jacob Marshall and first baseman/pitcher Jackson Carter return after promising seasons in 2017.

GLASCOCK COUNTY PANTHERS

Head Coach: Johnny Cantrell

Assistant Coach (s): Bobby Videon, Stanley Phillips

2017 Record: 12-13

Returning Starters: RHP/1B Nathan Tyler (Sr., 6-3, 200, R/R); OF/RHP Skylar Davis (Sr., 5-8, 150, R/R); SS/RHP Chandler Haywood (Jr., 5-10, 155, R/R); OF/LHP Deven Justice (Jr., 5-8, 160, L/L); 2B Gage Kitchens (Jr., 6-1, 155, R/R); 3B/RHP Jalen Jenkins (Jr., 5-11, 210, R/R); OF/RHP Matt Gordy (Jr., 6-2, 175, R/R); INF/RHP Liam Carson (So., 6-0, 150, R/R); C Will Chalker (So., 6-0, 170, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Dalton Loyal (So., 5-8, 145, R/R); U Evan Danforth (Jr., 5-7, 145, R/R); OF Justin Colman (Jr., 5-11, 200, R/R)

Top Newcomers: C/RHP Bradley Broxton (Fr., 5-10, 160, R/R)

Season Outlook: Look for Glascock County to be much better as its entire starting lineup returns. The Panthers should contend for a postseason berth. Juniors Deven Justice and Jalen Jenkins were promising as sophomores last season and will be expected to lead the way. Keep an eye on this team.

GREENE COUNTY TIGERS

Head Coach: Joe Smith

Survey not returned

HANCOCK CENTRAL BULLDOGS

Head Coach: TBA

Survey not returned

LAKE OCONEE ACADEMY TITANS

Head Coach: Jeremy Donaldson

Assistant Coach (s): Tommy McDonald, Dave Herring, Scott Greer

2017 Record: 2-16

Returning Starters: CF Bobby Hatfield (Sr., 6-0, 185, R/R); C Eli Ramsey (Sr., 6-0, 180, R/R); 1B John Fowler (Sr., 6-0, 180, R/R); SS Zach Tolleson (So., 5-11, 165, R/R); 3B Jackson Cown (So., 6-0, 160, R/R); RHP Devin Mitchell (Sr., 6-0, 160, R/R); 2B Blake Mills (Jr., 5-11, 180, R/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP/OF Kunj Sukha (Sr., 5-10, 150, R/R); OF Harrison Toomey (So., 5-10, 150, L/R)

Top Newcomers: OF Christian Greer (Fr., 5-10, 145, R/R)

Season Outlook: Lake Oconee Academy continues to show improvement. Seven starters are back, including a solid group of seniors. Outfielder Bobby Hatfield (.340 avg.) returns. If the Titans can develop some more pitching, they could have a chance to improve on last year's finish.

LINCOLN COUNTY RED DEVILS

Head Coach: Travis Lee

Assistant Coach (s): TBA

2017 Record: 6-19

Returning Starters: INF/RHP Lake Couch (Sr., R/R); OF/LHP Coby

Mayes (Jr., L/L); INF/RHP Colton Bonner (Jr., R/R)

Other Returning Players: INF Matthew Fernandes (Jr., R/R); C B.J. Crosby (Jr., R/R); OF Monquavious Leverrett (Jr., R/R); 1B/LHP Casey Prescott (Jr., L/L); INF/RHP Josh Hahn (So., R/R)

Season Outlook: Lincoln County looks to get back on track after winning just six games in 2017. The Red Devils will be a young team with a small senior class. Infielder/pitcher Lake Couch returns, giving the team a solid nucleus to build around. A solid group of juniors will be expected to step forward.

MOUNT DE SALES CAVALIERS

Head Coach: Bubba Pool

Assistant Coach (s): Todd Freeman, Jeff Nebel

2017 Record: 21-10

Returning Starters: OF/RHP Carson Riley (Sr., 6-2, 150, R/R); RHP/SS Jackson Taylor (So., 5-9, 140, R/R); C/RHP Rossman Diaz (So., 6-0, 175, R/R); 1B/RHP Jack Beers (Jr., 6-3, 165, R/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP/3B Jackson Nebel (So., 5-11, 165, R/R); 2B Walker Schofield (Jr., 5-7, 130, R/R); OF Landon Jernigan (Jr., 6-0, 160, R/R); OF Steele Bruce (Jr., 5-11, 145, R/R); RHP/C Clay Murphy (Jr., 6-0, 165, R/R); INF/OF Gordon Smith (Jr., 5-11, 160, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP/OF Micah Hattaway (Jr., 5-11, 160, R/R); OF Dexter Williams (So., 5-10, 160, R/R); RHP/C Kobe Butts (So., 5-10, 165, R/R); OF Andrew Craddock (Jr., 5-10, 210, R/R)

Season Outlook: The Cavaliers have some key positions to fill if they want to approach last season's success. The senior class is small, and the bulk of the talent are either sophomores or juniors. Outfielder/pitcher Carson Riley gives Mount de Sales a solid nucleus to build around.

STRATFORD EAGLES

Head Coach: Tyler Brown

Assistant Coach (s): Jeff Treadway, Bill Meeks

2017 Record: 12-13

Returning Starters: RHP/1B Clifton Olmstead (Sr., 6-2, 200, R/R); C Andrew Palmer (Sr., 6-0, 175, R/R); 2B Trey Giles (Sr., 6-2, 190, R/R); RHP/1B Sammy Martin (Sr., 6-2, 200, R/R); 3B Charlie Giles (Jr., 5-10, 200, R/R); LF John Manley (Jr., 5-8, 155, L/R); LHP/OF Sam Clark (Jr., 5-8, 155, L/L)

Season Outlook: Seven starters are back as Stratford looks to shake off a disappointing finish in 2017. A good mixture of seniors and juniors return to lead the way. Pitcher/first baseman Clifton Olmstead (5-4, 2.55 ERA; 404 avg., 20 RBIs) is back to spark the team.

TATTNALL SQUARE TROJANS

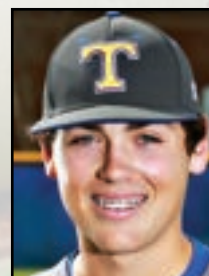
Head Coach: Joey Hiller

Assistant Coach (s):

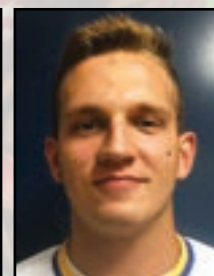
Tom Gorman, Bryan Kemp, Kevin Brown, Jordan Brooks

2017 Record: 31-5

Returning Starters: SS/3B/RHP Kendall Logan Simmons (Sr., 6-2, 195, R/R); RHP/3B/OF Luke Laskey (Sr., 6-0, 170, R/R); RHP/1B Logan



Logan Fink
Tattnall Square



Trey Ham
Tattnall Square

Fink (Sr., 6-3, 200, R/R); OF/RHP Austin Marchman (Sr., 6-0, 170, R/R); OF/RHP Destin Mack (Sr., 6-2, 185, R/R); C/RHP Trey Ham (Jr., 6-2, 220, R/R); INF/RHP Brooks Gorman (So., 6-1, 170, L/R)

REGION 8-1A

Region Favorite: Prince Avenue Christian

Players to Watch

- RHP – Matt Adams, Sr., Riverside Military
- LHP/1B – Noah Coleman, Jr., George Walton
- SS – Omar Daniels, Jr., George Walton
- OF/LHP – Ty Davis, Jr., Commerce
- INF/RHP – Jake Edwards, Sr., Hebron Christian
- LHP – Max Eggleston, Sr., Riverside Military
- SS/RHP – Andrew Estes, So., Lakeview Academy
- RHP/1B – Trey Felt, Sr., Prince Avenue Christian
- 2B – Landon Jones, Sr., Hebron Christian
- 3B – Austin Knowles, Sr., Athens Christian
- C/RHP – Charlie Ledford, Sr., Commerce
- RHP/SS – Luke Matthews, Sr., Providence Christian
- INF/RHP – Josh Murdock, Sr., George Walton
- INF – Avi Patel, Sr., Athens Academy
- C – Jackson Reynolds, Sr., Athens Academy
- INF/RHP – Thomas Ross, Jr., Prince Avenue Christian
- LHP/1B – Cole Tillotson, Jr., Providence Christian
- CF/C – Keegan Tranum, Jr., Providence Christian
- 1B/LHP – Jacob Welch, Jr., Commerce
- RHP/OF – Danny Westbury, Sr., Prince Avenue Christian
- OF/LHP – Jack White, Sr., Athens Academy
- OF – Chip Williams, Sr., Athens Christian

ATHENS ACADEMY SPARTANS

Head Coach: Casey Kane

Assistant Coach (s): Don Chuboff, Marvin Barton, Cole Bennett

2017 Record: 16-11

Returning Starters: OF/LHP Jack White (Sr., 6-2, 190, L/L); C Jackson Reynolds (Sr., 5-11, 180, R/R); INF Avi Patel (Sr., 5-10, 150, R/L); 3B/RHP Charlie King (Sr., 5-10, 175, R/R); INF Connor Hatch (Sr., 5-10, 165, R/R); INF Jack Thomas (Jr., 5-10, 170, R/R); RHP/1B Wyatt England (So., 6-2, 180, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF Hilt Moree (Sr., 5-10, 160, R/R); OF Henry Trapnell (Sr., 5-9, 170, R/R); C Franklin Burns (Jr., 5-10, 165, R/R); INF Wesley Williamson (Jr., 5-10, 155, R/R); INF Charlie Kahlstorf (So., 5-9, 150, R/R); INF Trent Muir (So., 5-9, 150, R/R); INF Turner Trapnell (So., 5-9, 155, R/R)

Top Newcomers: SS Palmer Bush (Fr., 5-11, 165, R/R)

Season Outlook: A good nucleus of returning talent is back for Athens Academy this spring. Seven starters, five of them seniors, return. Pitchers Jack White and Wyatt England return, while catcher Jackson Reynolds and infielder Avi Patel return to lead the offense.



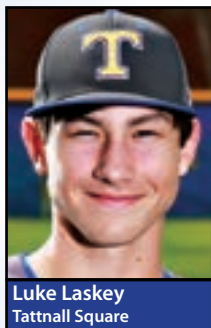
Jack White
Athens Academy

Other Returning

Players: INF/OF Miles Morris (Jr., 6-2, 190, R/R); OF BJ Spears (Jr., 5-10, 165, R/R); RHP/INF Dawson Brown (So., 6-1, 160, R/R); RHP/INF Christian Arnett (So., 6-4, 175, R/R); C/OF Elmo Daniels (So., 5-7, 180, R/R); OF/RHP Garrett Earls (Jr., 5-11, 150, R/R); 1B/RHP William Stubbs (Jr., 6-1, 175, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP Keith Hartness (Jr., 5-11, 165, R/R); INF/OF Kyle Johnson (So., 5-6, 145, R/R); OF/RHP Gray Talton (Fr., 5-6, 150, L/R); C/RHP Hunter Alexander (Fr., 6-0, 160, R/R); 1B/RHP Carter Fink (Fr., 6-0, 160, R/R)

Season Outlook: If the Trojans can find some pitching, they should have a chance to make another deep postseason run. Seven starters and a wealth of talented underclassmen return. Infielder Kendall Logan Simmons (.387 avg., 48 RBIs), Luke Laskey (.429 avg., 40 RBIs) and Logan Fink (.323 avg., 10 2B) return to lead the offense.



Luke Laskey
Tattnall Square



Austin Marchman
Tattnall Square

TWIGGS COUNTY COBRAS

Head Coach: TBA

Survey not returned

WASHINGTON-WILKES TIGERS

Head Coach: Drew Wilson

Assistant Coach (s): Ty McGill

2017 Record: 14-12

Returning Starters: RHP/1B Wes Tanner (Sr., 6-1, 265, R/R); SS/2B Curt Gammon (Sr., 5-6, 140, R/R); 3B/C Alex Lamar (So., 5-11, 230, R/R); C/OF Bailey Brock (Sr., 5-11, 220, R/R); CF D'Mytri Wiggs (Jr., 5-11, 205, R/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP/U Tad McAvoy (Jr., 5-8, 160, R/R); RHP/3B Christian Wade (Sr., 6-3, 205, R/R); 2B Tucker McAvoy (So., 5-6, 140, R/R); 1B/OF Donovan Anthony (So., 6-0, 200, R/R)

Top Newcomers: 3B/RHP Ryan Hucke (Fr., 6-2, 180, R/R)

Season Outlook: The Tigers return five starters and should make a run at a state playoff berth this spring. Right-handed pitcher/first baseman Wes Tanner leads the pitching rotation, while infielder Curt Gammon and catcher/outfielder Bailey Brock are back to lead the offense. Infielder/catcher Alex Lamar returns after a promising freshman season last year.

WILKINSON COUNTY WARRIORS

Head Coach: Keldrick Burke

Survey not returned



ATHENS CHRISTIAN EAGLES

Head Coach: Allen Osborne

Assistant Coach (s): Jeff Griffith,

Jake Westbrook

2017 Record: 28-5

Returning Starters: INF Blayze Haddock (So., 5-11, 160, L/R); 1B Maddux Seagraves (So., 5-11, 170, L/L); INF Austin Knowles (Sr., 5-11, 165, R/R); OF Chip Williams (Sr., 5-11, 195, R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF/LHP Josh Cummings (Jr., 5-10, 155, R/L); LHP/OF James Cabaniss (Jr., 6-1, 165, L/L); RHP/OF Hunter Norris (Jr., 6-0, 155, R/R); INF Blake Taylor (Jr., 5-9, 155, R/R); OF Chris Jackson (So., 6-0, 170, R/R); OF Joseph Vatour (Jr., 6-2, 165, R/R)

Top Newcomers: INF Ben Pethel (Fr., 5-10, 180, R/R); INF Seaver King (Fr., 5-8, 140, R/R); OF Blake Beedle (Fr., 5-10, 140, B/R); C Corbin Gabriel (Fr., 6-1, 175, R/R)

Season Outlook: Athens Christian won its first region title as a GHSA member last season. The Eagles have some holes to fill to approach last year's success, but the roster is still talented. Four starters are back, including infielder Austin Knowles.



Austin Knowles
Athens Christian

Other Returning

Players: OF Kody Mintz (So., 5-10, 155, L/L); C Jace Veal (So., 5-10, 160, R/R); RHP Tucker Maloch (Jr., 6-0, 185, R/R); C Chase Bridges (Jr., 6-1, 170, R/R); OF TJ Trudnak (So., 6-0, 140, R/R); 3B Sam Reach (So., 5-7, 170, R/R)

Top Newcomers: 3B/SS/P Will Slater (Fr., 5-9, 140, R/R)

Season Outlook:

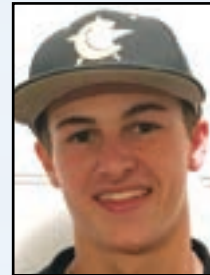
Commerce should be back in the postseason hunt as seven starters are back, including junior left-handed pitcher Ty Davis. A pair of seniors are also back – catcher/pitcher Charlie Ledford and outfielder/pitcher Jarrett Seay. The bulk of the team are underclassmen. Commerce may be a year away from reaching its full potential.



Ty Davis
Commerce



Charlie Ledford
Commerce



Chandler Martin
Commerce



Jacob Welch
Commerce

COMMERCE TIGERS

Head Coach: Steve Cotrell

Assistant Coach (s): Derrick Davis, Nick Ladd

2017 Record: 16-16

Returning Starters: SS/RHP Chandler Martin (Jr., 5-10, 160, R/R); OF/LHP Ty Davis (Jr., 6-5, 170, L/L); C/RHP Charlie Ledford (Sr., 5-10, 170, R/R); OF/RHP Jarrett Seay (Sr., 5-11, 155, R/R); 2B/RHP Colby Rogers (So., 5-8, 140, R/R); 1B/RHP Jacob Welch (Jr., 6-0, 180, R/L); RHP Nate Ray (So., 5-10, 145, R/R)

GEORGE WALTON BULLDOGS

Head Coach: Todd Shelnett

Assistant Coach (s): Dan Redovian, Tanner Martin, Jeff Buice

2017 Record: 16-19

Returning Starters: SS Omar Daniels (Jr., 5-9, 150, R/R); C Charlie Ritter (Sr., 6-1, 180, L/R); 2B Grant McDonel (Sr., 5-11, 170, R/R); 3B Gabe McCullers (Sr., 5-7, 170, R/R); CF Ayden Middlebrooks (Jr., 5-9,

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165, B/R); RF Bradley Williams (Jr., 5-10, 170, R/R); LF JT Freebee (Sr., 5-8, 160, L/R)

Other Returning Players: LHP/1B Noah Coleman (Jr., 6-0, 185, L/L); RHP/C Koby Dunn (So., 5-10, 170, R/R); INF/RHP Josh Murdock (Sr., 6-2, 180, L/R); INF Keon McGhee (So., 5-7, 170, R/R); C/RHP Jake Gray (Jr., 6-3, 200, R/R); RHP/1B Connor Brown (Jr., 6-1, 190, R/R); RHP/OF Will Wolf (Jr., 5-7, 170, R/R)

Season Outlook: George Walton looks to improve upon last season's finish. The Bulldogs welcome the return of seven starters, including shortstop Omar Daniels. Left-hander Noah Coleman and right-hander Koby Dunn lead a young but talented pitching rotation. The senior class is solid.



Omar Daniels
George Walton

HEBRON CHRISTIAN LIONS

Head Coach: Ben Drust

Assistant Coach (s): Bob Cole, Justice French

2017 Record: 20-9

Returning Starters: 2B Landon Jones (Sr., 5-9, 165, L/R); INF/RHP Jake Edwards (Sr., 5-11, 180, R/R); OF Max Bennett (Jr., 6-1, 160, R/R); INF Jackson Boyd (So., 5-9, 160, R/R); INF/OF Jason Lockhart (So., 5-10, 160, L/R); C Thomas Headley (So., 6-0, 170, R/R)

Other Returning Players: P Jesse Bailey (Sr.); OF Asher Miller (Sr.)

Season Outlook: The Lions have combined to win 50 games the past two seasons. Hebron welcomes the return of six starters, including seniors Landon Jones and Jake Edwards. The Lions will be looking for some younger players to step up if they want to approach last year's success.



Landon Jones
Hebron Christian

LAKEVIEW ACADEMY LIONS

Head Coach: Deuce Roark

Assistant Coach (s): Houghton Carswell, Derek Fadool

2017 Record: 7-20

Returning Starters: SS/RHP Andrew Estes (So., 5-9, 165, R/R); OF/RHP Jordan Thomas (So., 5-10, 170, L/R); OF JD Roark (Sr., 5-10, 185, R/R); C/RHP Sam Stewart (So., 5-10, 180, R/R); 3B/RHP Ian Echols (Jr., 5-9, 205, R/R); 1B/RHP Alec Bornhorst (Sr., 6-4, 200, R/R)

Other Returning Players: RHP Evan Gravitt (Sr., 6-0, 180, R/R); OF Will Dennard (Jr., 6-1, 175, R/R); INF/C Caleb Giles (So., 5-8, 140, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP Campbell Melson (Jr., R/R); RHP Holden Cooper (So., R/R)

Season Outlook: Lakeview Academy seeks to shake off a disappointing finish last year. The Lions welcome the return of six starters, the bulk of them underclassmen. Seniors JD Roark and Alec Bornhorst return, but keep an eye on sophomores Andrew Estes, Jordan Thomas and Sam Stewart who were promising last year.

PRINCE AVENUE CHRISTIAN WOLVERINES

Head Coach: Phil Roberts (new)

Assistant Coach (s): David Lincoln

2017 Record: 22-11

Returning Starters: 2B Mikey Talmadge (Sr., L/R); RHP/OF Danny Westbury (Sr., R/R); RHP/1B Trey Felt (Sr., R/R); INF/RHP Luke McDevitt (Sr., R/R); INF/RHP Thomas Ross (Jr., R/R); 1B/RHP Cain Tatum (Jr., R/R); OF Shelby Davis (Jr., R/R)

Other Returning Players: OF/RHP Murphy Healan (Jr., R/R); C David

Mathis (Jr., R/R); INF/RHP Bryson Seay (So., R/R); INF Jake Haynes (So., R/R)

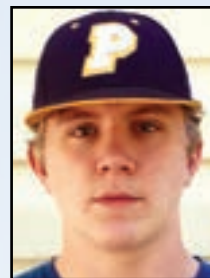
Top Newcomers: U Brock Vandagriff (Fr., R/R)

Season Outlook: After taking Strong Rock Christian to the state playoffs last year, Phil Roberts takes over and

will keep Prince Avenue's momentum going. Seven starters are back to lead the way. Pitchers Danny Westbury and Trey Felt lead a solid rotation, while shortstop Thomas Ross returns to lead the offense.



Trey Felt
Prince Avenue Christian



Danny Westbury
Prince Avenue Christian

PROVIDENCE CHRISTIAN STORM

Head Coach: Adam Cantrell

Assistant Coach (s): Nick Stidham, Preston Smith, Parker Conley

2017 Record: 19-15

Returning Starters: LHP/1B Cole Tillotson (Jr., 6-0, 180, L/L); LHP/OF Simon Graf (Jr., 5-10, 155, R/L); CF/C Keegan Trantum (Jr., 5-6, 145, R/R); RHP/INF Wesley Anderson (Sr., 5-9, 150, R/R); C David Sloan (Sr., 5-11, 185, R/R); RHP/SS Luke Matthews (Sr., 6-2, 160, R/R); U Crawford Hansard (So., 5-9, 150, R/R)

Other Returning Players: 2B/RHP Robert Fain (Sr., 5-9, 140, L/R); U Mitchell Miller (Sr., 5-9, 170, R/R); OF/RHP Connor Allen (Sr., 6-2, 170, R/R); U Sam Aurelia (So., 5-8, 135, R/R)

Top Newcomers: RHP/INF Ben Johnson (So., 6-2, 160, R/R)

Season Outlook: Providence Christian won 19 games last season and made the state playoffs. The Storm should be back in the hunt this spring. Seven starters are back, including standout pitchers Cole Tillotson (3-2, 1.72 ERA) and Luke Matthews (2-4, 3.34 ERA). Outfielder Keegan Trantum (.390 avg., 15 RBIs) returns after a solid sophomore campaign.



Cole Tillotson
Providence Christian

RIVERSIDE MILITARY EAGLES

Head Coach: Mike Hutch

Assistant Coach (s): Zeb Lackey

2017 Record: 4-15

Returning Starters: RHP Matt Adams (Sr., 5-9, 160, R/R); LHP Max Eggleston (Sr., 6-0, 165, L/L); OF Thomas Olander (Jr., 5-10, 170, R/R); INF Greg Stone (Jr., 5-8, 150, R/R)

Other Returning Players: INF Andrew Okingo (So., R/R)

Top Newcomers: OF James Seymour (Jr., R/R); C Jesse Crandall (Jr., R/R); INF Ethan Reisenfeld (So., R/R)

Season Outlook: Riverside Military will look to turn things around after winning just four games in 2017. Four starters return, including a pair of senior pitchers in Matt Adams and Max Eggleston. Some younger players will need to step forward.

TALLULAH FALLS INDIANS

Head Coach: Mark Wilcox

Survey not returned

TOWNS COUNTY INDIANS

Head Coach: Shannon Floyd

Survey not returned

**BETTER
BASEBALL**

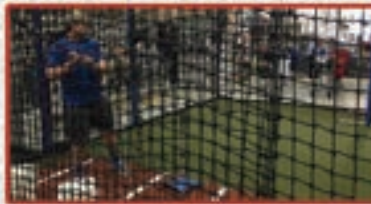
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Georgia High School Association

(Statistics for returning players only provided coaches sent in stats to Georgia Dugout Preview Magazine)

BATTING

AVERAGE (Minimum 60 at bats)			DOUBLES			TRIPLES		
Name	School	Average	Name	School	Total	Name	School	Total
David Crawford	Mundy's Mill	0.568	Jarrett Ford	Decatur	15	Kameron Marshall	Redan	8
Bill Knight	Burke County	0.533	Luke Laskey	Tattnall Square	15	Victor Hill	Baldwin	7
Chandler Davis	Dodge County	0.532	Andrew Moore	Jackson	15	Jarrett Ford	Decatur	5
Corey King	Arabia Mountain	0.516	Cade Lambert	Wayne County	14	Josh Holt	Eagles Landing Chr.	5
Caleb Ramsey	Heritage-Conyers	0.512	Tyler Pruett	Dodge County	14	Griffin Price	Buford	5
Gunnar Watson	Taylor County	0.510	Kelvin Smith	Redan	14	Ryan Bliss	Troup	4
Jack Haney	Cedartown	0.500	Luke Gray	North Paulding	13	Justin Kirby	Alpharetta	4
Jordan Sterling	Arabia Mountain	0.500	Garrison Price	Buford	13	Hayden Milling	Kings Ridge Christian	4
Ethan Scott	Aquinas	0.485	Wil Willbanks	Newnan	13	Lyndon Weaver	Redan	4
Tyler Pruett	Dodge County	0.481	Orlando Adams	Redan	12	Jonathan Brand	Columbus	3
Elijah Hammonds	Columbia	0.480	Tyler Chesser	Charlton County	12	Logan Cerny	Parkview	3
Gavin Bloodworth	First Presbyterian Day	0.471	Ethan Dodd	Westside-Augusta	12	Qua Harper	Fitzgerald	3
Sam Thompson	Bremen	0.469	Wade Law	Schley County	12	Jonathan Hickman	Heritage-Catoosa	3
Seth Newsome	East Laurens	0.456	Elijah Hammonds	Columbia	11	Trey Hodges	Lambert	3
Zach Elmy	Harrison	0.455				Carter Huffman	Whitfield Academy	3
Victor Hill	Baldwin	0.455				Bill Knight	Burke County	3
Cole Phillips	Trion	0.452				Santiago Montiel	Alpharetta	3
Tyler Moore	Turner County	0.450				Garrison Price	Buford	3
Blake Evans	Allatoona	0.447				Nick Sheetz	Lambert	3
Mason Johns	Early County	0.444				David Smith	Allatoona	3
Palmer Sapp	Dawson County	0.444				Patrick Taylor	Marist	3
Taj Bradley	Redan	0.441				Robbie Tillman	Columbus	3

RBIS			HOME RUNS			STOLEN BASES		
Name	School	Total	Name	School	Total	Name	School	Total
Carson Taylor	Greater Atl. Christian	51	Kendall Logan Simmons	Tattnall Square	9	Elijah Hammonds	Columbia	36
Kendall Logan Simmons	Tattnall Square	48	Nick Swanson	Mt. Paran Christian	9	Randon Jernigan	Glynn Academy	29
Jonathan Hickman	Heritage-Catoosa	41	Devin Warner	Cartersville	9	Bill Knight	Burke County	29
Cole Wilcox	Heritage-Catoosa	41	Gunnar Watson	Taylor County	9	Qua Harper	Fitzgerald	28
Luke Laskey	Tattnall Square	40	Logan Cerny	Parkview	8	Chase Kirby	Sonoraville	23
Connor Bearden	Dawson County	39	Ethan Cornelius	Woodward Academy	8	Drew Torek	Burke County	23
Hayden Harrison	Greenbrier	39	Jonathan French	Parkview	8	Zac Hill	Franklin County	21
Gavin Bloodworth	First Presbyterian Day	38	Ford Townsend	Wayne County	8	Connor Pavolony	River Ridge	21
Brian Port	Starr's Mill	38	Will Banfield	Brookwood	7	Coleton Pitcock	Bowdon	21
Ethan Cornelius	Woodward Academy	37	Austin Ross	Mt. Paran Christian	7	Mitch Baxter	Charlton County	20
Ryan Dopson	Telfair County	37	Jack Alexander	Mt. Paran Christian	6	DJ Edwards	Worth County	20
Jarrett Ford	Decatur	37	Lance Dockery	Heritage-Catoosa	6	Noah Tuten	Lanier County	20
Kameron Marshall	Redan	37	Parks Harber	Westminster	6	Justin Cole	Jefferson	19
Reese Olson	North Hall	37	Trey Lingo	Brookstone	6	Austin Jones	Rabun County	18
Ian Blankenship	Telfair County	36	Colton McDaniel	Northview	6	Jared Hart	Lassiter	17
Jack Alexander	Mt. Paran Christian	35	Anthony Seigler	Cartersville	6	Ty Milliner	North Springs	17
Tim Conway	Decatur	35				Chandler Simpson	St. Pius X	17
John Kropaczewski	Jordan	35				Andy Smith	Carrollton	17
Cole Phillips	Trion	35				KJ Williams	Charlton County	17
Teldrick Ross	Jones County	35				Donovan Wright	Westover	17



Georgia High School Baseball State Records

Compiled by the Georgia Dugout Club

Batting

Hits in a Season

Rank	Player	School	Record	Year
1	Kaleb Cowart	Cook	70	2010
2	Ryan Ritter	Wheeler	68	1991
3	Adam Frazier	Oconee County	66	2010

Doubles in a Season

1	Alex Lee	Lanier County	28	1989
2	Adam Frazier	Oconee County	24	2010
3	Ric Bishop	Columbus	21	2003
3	Kody Adams	Pike County	21	2011

Triples in a Season

1	Harrison Stewart	Thomasville	10	2017
2	Doug Roper	Vidalia	9	1995
3	Gerald Allen	Cass	8	2008

Home Runs in a Season

1	Christin Stewart	Providence Christian	26	2012
2	Micah Owings	Gainesville	25	2002
2	Brodie Pullen	Calhoun	25	2007
4	Clint Frazier	Loganville	24	2012

Walks in a Season

1	Christin Stewart	Providence Christian	51	2012
2	Joshua Lowe	Pope	50	2016
3	Two players tied		44	

Stolen Bases in a Season

1	Ladonis Bryant	Early County	59	2013
2	Eddie Noble	Lanier County	57	2001
3	Two players tied		56	

RBI's in a Season

1	Brodie Pullen	Calhoun	74	2005
2	Casey Moody	Spalding	71	2011
3	Christin Stewart	Providence Christian	70	2012

Batting Average in a Season (minimum 60 at bats)

1	David Lamberth	Macon County	0.720	1997
2	Whit Robbins	Calhoun	0.661	2003
3	Kaleb Cowart	Cook	0.654	2010

Hits in a Career

Rank	Player	School	Record	Years
1	Kaleb Cowart	Cook	216	2007-2010
2	Danny Lockhart	Hebron Christian	215	2008-2011
3	Matt Robbins	Calhoun	210	1999-2002

Doubles in a Career

1	Kaleb Cowart	Cook	54	2007-2010
2	Adam Frazier	Oconee County	53	2008-2010
3	Kody Adams	Pike County	47	2008-2011

Triples in a Career

1	Corey Patterson	Harrison	17	1995-1998
1	Jon Brackett	Wheeler	17	?
3	Ladonis Bryant	Early County	12	2010-2013

Home Runs in a Career

1	Micah Owings	Gainesville	69	1999-2002
1	Christin Stewart	Providence Christian	69	2009-2012
3	Clint Frazier	Loganville	63	2010-2013

Walks in a Career

1	Corey Patterson	Harrison	110	1995-1998
2	Tyler Austin	Heritage, Conyers	100	2007-2010
3	Jake Fields	Jefferson	97	2007-2010

Stolen Bases in a Career

1	Antonio Allen	Jonesboro	134	2007-2010
2	Andrew Smith	North Hall	122	2010-2014
3	Tyler Jones	Social Circle	118	2004-2007

RBI's in a Career

1	Matt Robbins	Calhoun	224	1999-2002
2	Jake Fields	Jefferson	189	2007-2010
3	Kaleb Cowart	Cook	185	2007-2010

Batting Average in a Career (minimum 120 at bats)

1	Jake Fields	Jefferson	0.561	2007-2010
2	Whit Robbins	Calhoun	0.534	2000-2003
3	Alex Lee	Lanier County	0.526	1986-1989

Pitching

ERA in a Season (minimum 56 innings)

Rank	Player	School	Record	Year
1	Jeff Cartledge	Columbus	0.00	1979
2	Brock Turner	Madison County	0.08	2012
3	Josh Smoker	Calhoun	0.09	2005

Wins in a Season

1	Kevin Smith	Columbus	17	1991
2	John Davis	Forest Park	16	1986
2	Doug Roper	Vidalia	16	1995
2	Drew Tanner	Coffee	16	1982

Strikeouts in a Season

1	Drew Tanner	Coffee	197	1982
2	Grafton Kent	Lanier County	194	2001
3	Matthew Crownover	Ringgold	176	2010

Innings Pitched in a Season

1	John Davis	Forest Park	121	1986
2	Mike Autrey	Columbus	118.1	1980
3	John Davis	Forest Park	117	1985

ERA in a Career (minimum 112 innings)

Rank	Player	School	Record	Years
1	Kaleb Cowart	Cook	0.83	2007-2010
2	D.J. Johnson	Cook	1.06	2007-2010
3	Kent Emanuel	Woodstock	1.11	2007-2010

Wins in a Career

1	John Carroll	Gainesville	44	1999-2002
1	Matt Handley	Greater Atlanta Christian	44	1999-2002
3	Drew Tanner	Coffee	43	1979-1982
3	Conard Broom	Gordon Lee	43	2012-2015

Strikeouts in a Career

1	Drew Tanner	Coffee	519	1979-1982
2	Josh Smoker	Calhoun	487	2004-2007
3	John Davis	Forest Park	474	1983-1986

Innings Pitched in a Career

1	John Davis	Forest Park	386	1983-1986
2	Drew Tanner	Coffee	361	1979-1982
3	Sylvestor West	Lanier County	320	1981-1984

2018 Returning Statistical Leaders

Georgia High School Association

(Statistics for returning players only provided coaches sent in stats to Georgia Dugout Preview Magazine)

PITCHING

WINS			STRIKEOUTS			ERA (Minimum 30 innings pitched)		
Name	School	Total	Name	School	Total	Name	School	Total
Reese Olson	North Hall	13	Jack Gowen	Charlton County	122	Braden Hays	Parkview	0.10
Matthew Deloach	Taylor County	11	Cody Williams	Pierce County	122	Bryant Pietri	Loganville	0.23
Colton McDaniel	Northview	11	Austin Ross	Mt. Paran Christian	116	Jack Gowen	Charlton County	0.38
Michael Menhart	Richmond Hill	11	Will Bowdoin	Glynn Academy	111	Trace Twardoski	Brookwood	0.42
Austin Ross	Mt. Paran Christian	11	Joseph Brandon	Loganville	103	Luke Bartnicki	Walton	0.45
Luke Bartnicki	Walton	10	Colton McDaniel	Northview	102	Colby Williams	Troup	0.61
Jakob Brown	North Paulding	10	Reese Olson	North Hall	96	Joseph Brandon	Loganville	0.85
Braden Hays	Parkview	10	Luke Bartnicki	Walton	93	Ashton Sturgell	Evans	0.96
Jared Soliz	Carrollton	10	Brett Potts	Calhoun	91	Klay Allen	Pierce County	0.97
Cody Williams	Pierce County	10	Kole Newman	Islands	90	Jakob Brown	North Paulding	1.03
Brett Potts	Calhoun	9	Caleb Shiflett	Coosa	89	Will Bowdoin	Glynn Academy	1.04
Bay Witcher	Loganville	9	Kameron Marshall	Redan	88	Nathan Mapstone	Alexander	1.05
			Nathan Mapstone	Alexander	86	Peyton Berry	Harrison	1.08
			Will Shirah	Fannin County	85	Colton McDaniel	Northview	1.14
			Colby Williams	Troup	84	Cody Williams	Pierce County	1.14
			Blake Wehunt	Franklin County	83	Cole Wilcox	Heritage-Catoosa	1.16
			Anthony Seigler	Cartersville	81	Owen Simonds	Rockdale County	1.24
			Ronny Piepmeier	North Cobb Christian	80	CJ Thomas	Banks County	1.24
			Carter Raffield	Bleckley County	80	Corey Hays	Social Circle	1.30
			Hunter Goodwin	Worth County	79	Blake Touchton	Cairo	1.30
			Chase Horton	Rabun County	78	Derrius York	Brookwood	1.33
			Jared Soliz	Carrollton	78	Tyler Beckham	Charlton County	1.38
			Ryan Dopson	Telfair County	75	Oliver Livingston	Decatur	1.38
			Bay Witcher	Loganville	75	Reese Olson	North Hall	1.4
			Alex Sutton	Vidalia	74			

SAVES		
Name	School	Total
Kasey Green	Richmond Hill	6
Hank Bearden	NW Whitfield	5
Noah Shroyer	Alexander	5
Chase Christopoulos	Archer	3
Jarrett Embry	Parkview	3
Noah Mendlinger	Alpharetta	3
Dylan Schuble	Mountain View	3
Jordan Sayles	Woodward Academy	3

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

WINNINGEST COACHES

Coach	School	Won	Loss	Coach	School	Won	Loss
Bobby Howard	retired, 2017	985	296	Greg James	retired, 2016	489	287
Gerald Barnes	Westside-Augusta	870	294	Chuck Fehr	retired, 2009	485	291
John Brown	retired, 2014	781	356	Billy Beale	retired, 2011	478	331
Donnie English	retired, 2014	716	397	Gus Bell	retired, 2016	476	337
Jimmie Lewis	Harlem	714	397	Kenny Morris	retired, 2013	472	256
Harvey Cochran	retired, 2012	682	348	Bart Shuman	retired, 2017	472	307
Renza Israel	retired, 2009	623	316	Barry Veal	retired, 2014	472	191
Terry Holder	retired, 2009	588	153	Wayne Vickery	retired, 2008	470	128
Carl Carter	Savannah Christian	583	210	Dwayne Sapp	Dawson County	464	184
Cliff Shelton	retired, 2014	578	298	John White	retired, 2017	464	206
Terry Cadenhead	retired, 2005	577	305	Greg Hamilton	retired, 2015	463	226
Stuart Chester	Buford	563	140	John Potevint	retired, 2014	455	236
Chip Henderson	Calhoun	548	165	Jerry Croft	retired, 2006	449	268
Hugh Buchanan	retired, 2004	546	245	Dennis Jordan	North Paulding	446	174
Bubber Adams	retired, 2001	543	157	Jeff Rowland	Pope	446	219
Andy Harlin	Blessed Trinity	534	181	Tony Boyd	East Paulding	445	347
Charlie Griffeth	retired, 2016	532	320	Mickey McMurtry	retired, 2009	445	169
Rob Williams	retired, 2013	529	203	Frank Vashaw	Franklin County	445	243
Mark Clark	retired, 2015	528	245	Tony Wolfe	retired, 2017	441	192
Mike Power	retired, 2017	525	220	Jeff Segars	Loganville	440	184
Bob Owsley	retired, 2010	520	218	Franklin Deloach	East Coweta	439	176
Donnie Branch	retired, 2012	519	241	Phil Williams	retired, 2013	438	286
Danny Blue	retired, 2000	514	222	Cecil Barber	retired, 2013	436	152
Charlie Owens	retired, 2011	513	442	Anthony Dimitri	retired, 2007	436	258
John Sawyer	retired, 1999	513	295	Chuck Campbell	retired, 2009	433	217
Marvin Pruitt	retired, 2014	510	300	Tim Lemons	Chattahoochee	428	360
Joey Hiller	Tattnall Square	499	122	Brad Campbell	retired, 2014	426	209
James Conoly	retired, 2010	498	313	Albert Lodge	retired, 2004	422	193
David McDonald	retired, 2010	496	322	Trent Mongero	Glynn Academy	422	190
Mike Hutch	Riverside Military	492	355	Jim Jefferson	retired, 2013	421	189



Mike Power



Cliff Shelton



Bobby Howard



Jimmie Lewis



Gerald Barnes



Hugh Buchanan

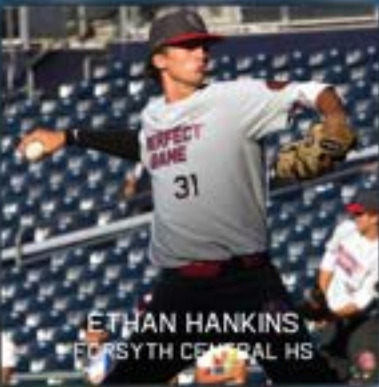
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Alexander	31	Cross Creek	60	Houston County	25	Mountain View	19	South Effingham	44
Allatoona	33	Cross Keys	49	Howard	58	Mundy's Mill	30	South Forsyth	17
Alpharetta	35	Dacula	37	Hughes, Langston	32	Murray County	87	South Gwinnett	22
Americus-Sumter	56	Dade County	102	Irwin County	112	New Hampstead	44	South Paulding	32
Apalachee	37	Dalton	33	Islands	82	New Manchester	32	Southeast Bulloch	83
Appling County	81	Darlington	120	Jackson	83	Newnan	12	Southeast Whitfield	64
Aquinas	123	Dawson County	88	Jackson County	90	Newton	22	Southwest DeKalb	49
Arabia Mountain	48	Decatur	49	Jackson, Maynard	98	Norcross	20	Southwest, Macon	99
Archer	21	Discovery	18	Jeff Davis	98	North Atlanta	36	Spalding	59
Armuchee	102	Dodge County	99	Jefferson	65	North Clayton	61	Spencer	101
Athens Academy	125	Dooly County	116	Jefferson County	100	North Cobb	14	Sprayberry	34
Athens Christian	126	Dougherty	80	Jenkins	82	North Cobb Christian	121	Starr's Mill	46
Atkinson County	111	Douglas County	32	Jenkins County	115	North Forsyth	17	Statesboro	44
Bacon County	97	Douglass	101	Johns Creek	36	North Gwinnett	19	Stephens County	66
Baconton Charter	110	Drew	30	Johnson County	115	North Hall	89	Stephenson	31
Bainbridge	43	Drew Charter	118	Johnson, Gainesville	53	North Murray	87	Stewart County	111
Baker County	110	Druid Hills	61	Johnson, Savannah	82	North Oconee	66	Stockbridge	47
Baldwin	60	Dublin	99	Jones County	47	North Paulding	14	Stone Mountain	85
Banks County	103	Duluth	18	Jonesboro	30	North Springs	49	Strong Rock Christian	119
Banneker	49	Dunwoody	36	Jordan	101	Northeast, Macon	99	Stratford	124
Beach	82	Dutchtown	47	Josey	100	Northgate	32	Swainsboro	98
Benedictine	97	Eagles Landing	47	Kell	51	Northside, Columbus	58	Tallulah Falls	127
Berkmar	20	Eagles Landing Christian	118	Kendrick	83	Northside, Warner Robins	26	Tattnall County	81
Berrien	95	Early County	96	Kennesaw Mountain	13	Northview	36	Tattnall Square	124
BEST Academy	101	East Coweta	12	King's Ridge Christian	121	Northwest Whitfield	63	Taylor County	117
Bleckley County	98	East Hall	88	KIPP Collegiate	101	Oconee County	66	Telfair County	113
Blessed Trinity	64	East Jackson	89	LaFayette	63	Oglethorpe County	104	Temple	101
Bowdon	120	East Laurens	99	LaGrange	62	Ola	47	Terrell County	111
Bradwell Institute	28	East Paulding	50	Lake Oconee	124	Osborne	34	Therrell	102
Brantley County	81	Eastside	61	Lakeside, DeKalb	20	Our Lady of Mercy	118	Thomas County Central	43
Bremen	86	Echols County	112	Lakeside, Evans	30	Pace Academy	85	Thomasville	96
Brooks County	96	Effingham County	28	Lakeview Academy	127	Paideia	119	Thomson	60
Brookstone	116	Elbert County	103	Lakeview-Ft Oglethorpe	87	Parkview	21	Tift County	11
Brookwood	20	Emanuel County Institute	114	Lamar County	101	Pataula Charter	110	Toombs County	98
Brunswick	28	Etowah	15	Lambert	17	Paulding County	51	Towers	85
Bryan County	97	Evans	29	Landmark Christian	118	Peach County	83	Towns County	127
Buford	52	Fannin County	88	Laney	100	Peachtree Ridge	19	Treutlen	116
Burke County	60	Fayette County	45	Lanier	38	Pebblebrook	12	Tri-Cities	32
Butler	100	Fellowship Christian	120	Lanier County	112	Pelham	110	Trion	122
Cairo	56	First Presbyterian Day	123	Lassiter	15	Pepperell	103	Troup	63
Calhoun	86	Fitzgerald	96	Lee County	26	Perry	59	Tucker	31
Calhoun County	110	Flowery Branch	52	Liberty County	81	Pickens	64	Twiggs County	125
Callaway	100	Forest Park	30	Lincoln County	124	Pierce County	81	Turner County	113
Calvary Day	114	Forsyth Central	16	Lithia Springs	49	Pike County	83	Union Grove	48
Cambridge	35	Franklin County	89	Lithonia	49	Pincrest Academy	122	Union County	89
Camden County	10	Fulton Leadership	118	Locust Grove	47	Pope	36	Upson-Lee	59
Carrollton	50	Gainesville	37	Loganville	53	Portal	115	Valdosta	26
Campbell	12	Galloway	118	Long County	81	Prince Avenue Christian	127	Veterans	43
Cartersville	61	George Walton	126	Lovejoy	30	Providence Christian	127	Vidalia	98
Carver, Atlanta	49	Georgia Military	123	Lovett	84	Putnam County	104	Villa Rica	51
Carver, Columbus	57	Gilmer	63	Lowndes	11	Quitman County	111	Walker	122
Cass	50	Glacocks County	124	Luella	61	Rabun County	104	Walnut Grove	53
Cedar Grove	84	Glenn Hills	100	Lumpkin County	89	Randolph-Clay	111	Walton	15
Cedar Shoals	52	Glynn Academy	28	Macon County	116	Redan	85	Ware County	44
Cedartown	62	Gordon Central	103	Madison County	66	Richmond Academy	60	Warner Robins	44
Centennial	35	Gordon Lee	120	Manchester	117	Richmond Hill	28	Washington	102
Central Gwinnett	20	Grady	49	Marietta	13	Ridgeland	64	Washington County	99
Central, Carroll	62	Grayson	22	Marion County	117	Ringgold	87	Washington-Wilkes	125
Central, Macon	83	Greater Atlanta Christian	88	Marist	65	River Ridge	34	Wayne County	45
Chamblee	48	Greenbrier	29	Martin Luther King, Jr.	30	Riverdale	46	Weber	119
Chapel Hill	62	Greene County	124	Mary Persons	59	Riverside Military	127	Webster County	111
Charlton County	112	Greenville	116	Mays	32	Riverwood	50	Wesleyan	119
Chattahoochee	35	Griffin	45	McEachern	14	Rockmart	103	West Forsyth	18
Chattahoochee County	110	Groves	82	McIntosh	46	Rockdale County	22	West Hall	65
Chattooga	102	Grovetown	29	McIntosh County Academy	115	Rome	51	West Laurens	59
Cherokee	15	Habersham Central	37	McNair	85	Roswell	15	Westlake	12
Chestatee	65	Hampton	47	Meadowcreek	20	Rutland	84	Westminster	85
Christian Heritage	120	Hancock Central	124	Metter	98	Saint Anne-Pacelli	117	Westover	58
Clarke Central	52	Hapeville	101	Mill Creek	18	Saint Pius X	66	Westside, Augusta	100
Clarkston	48	Haralson County	87	Miller County	110	Saint Francis	122	Westside, Macon	84
Claxton	114	Hardaway	57	Miller Grove	47	Salem	61	Wheeler	12
Clinch County	112	Harlem	100	Milton	17	Sandy Creek	62	Wheeler County	116
Coahulla Creek	86	Harris County	43	Mitchell County	110	Savannah	82	White County	65
Coffee	25	Harrison	34	Model	103	Savannah Christian	115	Whitefield Academy	122
Collins Hill	18	Hart County	90	Monroe	80	Savannah Country Day	116	Whitewater	46
Colquitt County	11	Hawkinsville	116	Monroe Area	90	Schley County	117	Wilcox County	114
Columbia	48	Heard County	101	Montgomery County	115	Screven County	100	Wilkinson County	125
Columbus	57	Hebron Christian Academy	127	Monticello	104	Seminole County	111	Winder-Barrow	38
Commerce	126	Henry County	61	Morgan County	90	Sequoyah	34	Windsor Forest	83
Cook	79	Hephzibah	60	Morrow	46	Shaw	58	Woodland, Bartow	51
Coosa	102	Heritage, Catoosa	63	Mount de Sales	124	Shiloh	22	Woodland, Henry	48
Crawford County	116	Heritage, Conyers	29	Mount Paran Christian	121	Social Circle	104	Woodstock	16
Creekside	31	Hillgrove	13	Mount Pisgah Christian	121	Sonoraville	87	Woodward Academy	61
				Mount Vernon Presbyterian	118			Worth County	80



KUMAR ROCKER
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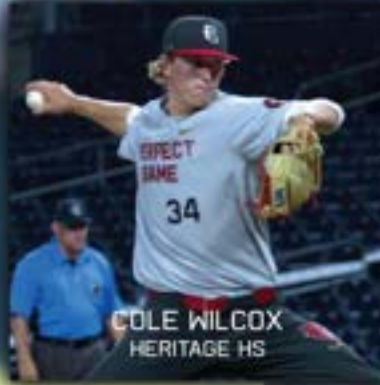
CABERA WEAVER
SOUTH GWINNETT HS



ANTHONY SEIGLER
CARTERSVILLE HS



KENDALL SIMMONS
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