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2013 GHSA CLASS A BASEBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

WELCOME FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RALPH SWEARNGIN

Greetings, GHSA baseball fans!

Welcome to the 2013 GHSA Championship Series for Baseball, the final GHSA event of this school year. Nearly four weeks ago these teams began the journey through the playoffs, and now they are poised for the final challenge - competing for the State Championship. The Georgia High School Association is proud of the commitment to excellence that these players and coaches have demonstrated throughout the season, as the quality of play in high school baseball in Georgia continues to grow.

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

The GHSA is grateful for the generous contributions of our corporate partners who enable us to provide these events. As you see the list of these partners around the field, please support them at every opportunity.

Ralph Swearngin
Ralph Swearngin
GHSA Executive Director

CLASS A CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

MAY 18, 20

CLASS A - PRIVATE
MT. PARAN CHRISTIAN @ ELCA

CLASS A - PUBLIC
GORDON LEE @ CHARLTON COUNTY

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SCORE atlanta

The 2013 Georgia High School Association Baseball Class A State Championship Guide is published by Score Atlanta, in conjunction with the GHSA. The guide was designed by DJ Galbiati Blalock, edited by Stephen Black and Fletcher Proctor and information provided by the GHSA. Photos on the cover are courtesy of ELCA, First Presbyterian Day, Emanuel County HS and Lincoln County HS. For more information on Score Atlanta, go to ScoreAll.com or call 404-256-1572.

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HOUSE DIVIDED

Single A prepares to crown two champs

By Craig Sager II

The 2013 season marks the inaugural crowning of both Class A-Public and Class A-Private champions. In Class-A Public, Charlton County (27-2) is paired with Gordon Lee (29-2). In 2012, both Gordon Lee and Charlton County had their championship hopes ended by Providence Christian, which went on to win the title. Gordon Lee fell to the Stars in the second round, and Charlton County lost to them in the state championship.

This season looks to be different, as both teams are well equipped with lineups that are red-hot and capable of bursting into a five- or six-run inning at any point. Gordon Lee has outscored its opponents 84-11 leading up to the championship and Charlton County had a 53-10 run advantage in its trio of playoff sweeps.

Gordon Lee is yet to be tested besides an early hiccup in Game 1 of the semifinals against Treutlen. Visiting Treutlen opened up a five-run top of the first, but the Trojans regained the momentum before the Vikings could get up to the second inning. Gordon Lee outscored them 33-3 from that point in the series. Adam Vandiver is the leadoff man and gets support throughout the lineup. Tanner Sexton recorded five hits and five RBIs in the sweep over Treutlen. Daniel Brooks, Adam Vandiver, Conner Coakley, Kyle Rosen and Brad Cammack all had multi-hit games to erase the 5-0 deficit in the semis.

For Charlton County, it has been a collective effort to get back into the title game. Last year's ace Chris Smith graduated and left a vacancy in the Indians' rotation, and Ryan Young has come in and filled it seamlessly. Young rested an aggravated throwing arm last season and did not pitch, but has five wins on the season and combines it with his potent .376 batting average that includes 21 RBIs. A total of 10 players possess batting averages upward of .300. Leadoff man Jacob Baxter is hitting .457 and sophomore L.J. Talley is batting .508. Baxter and Talley are dangerous baserunners and the two have combined for 30 stolen bases on the season. Jesse King had a broken hand last season, but the junior has remained healthy this season and is batting cleanup at .449 with a team-high 36 RBIs.

Class A-Private sets up a playoff rematch from a year ago with Mt. Paran Christian and Eagle's Landing Christian. The Chargers swept Mt. Paran in the second round before losing in three games to George Walton in the semis. This year Mt. Paran finds itself in the championship after sweeping George Walton in the semis. Mt. Paran gave up just one unearned run in the two games and showed to be playing its most polished ball of the season. Pitchers Jordan VerSteeg and Colton Cannon are the No. 1 and No. 2 starters. VerSteeg pitched a complete-game shutout in the 5-0 Game 2 win, and Cannon pitched six innings giving up no earned runs in the Game 18-1 decision. Matt Mackenzie, Hunter Rice, Tyler Flowers, Landon Faulkner and Jake Palomaki are all excellent hitters. Mt. Paran's last championship appearance was in 2005.

Darlington took Eagle's Landing Christian to a Game 3 in the semifinals, but that does not mean this team has weaknesses. The Chargers are a well-built team loaded with athleticism, power and experience. The pitching and defense of Mt. Paran will be put to the test against the bats of Jacob Heyward and the Chargers. In their Game 3 win over Darlington, their ability to produce runs was in full display to a level that has been unmatched this postseason. They scored 17 runs off of 14 hits in the sixth inning to close their 24-5 win.

Sager can be reached at csager@scoreatl.com.

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CLASS A-PRIVATE

EAGLE'S LANDING CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Head Coach: Scott Queen

1	DJ Cooper	10	C
2	Jordan Howard	11	3B
3	Dalton Etheridge	11	SS/P
4	Cameron Ragsdale	12	C/P
5	DJ Curl	12	2B
6	David Kim	11	2B
7	Jaylen Smith	10	SS/2B
8	Patrick Busscher	12	P/INF/OF
9	Matthew Barton	10	OF
11	Austin Hyde	11	C
12	Josh Smith	12	P
15	Shawn Bartlett	11	P
17	Andrew Gomez	11	OF
18	Ethan McKibben	11	OF
20	Cole Ganopulos	9	P
21	Larson Gailles	12	OF/P
23	Matthew Hammers	11	P/1B
24	Dazmon Cameron	10	OF
33	Bryce Rush	11	P
34	Jacob Heyward	12	3B

MT. PARAN CHRISTIAN

Head Coach: Kyle Reese

2	Jake Palomaki	11	SS
3	Isaac Phillips	10	OF
4	Landon Faulkner	11	IF
7	Will Schnure	12	C
8	Matt McKenzie	12	OF
9	Graham True	10	C
10	Travis Isenberg	11	OF/C
11	Brandon Fish	12	OF/P
12	Robert Wilson	12	P
14	Jordan Busby	11	OF
15	Jake Landen	11	IF
16	Tyler Flowers	12	IF
18	Taylor Trammell	9	OF
19	Ryan Murphy	12	IF
21	Andrew Maxwell	11	P
22	Jordan Ver Steeg	12	P
26	Kyle Trammell	12	P/OF
44	Keith Johnson	12	OF
51	Colton Cannon	12	P/OF

CLASS A-PUBLIC

GORDON LEE

Head Coach: Mike Dunfee

2	Daniel Brooks	12	OF
3	Cody Wilson	12	SS
5	Branton Phillips	12	P
6	Tanner Sexton	12	C
7	Landon O'Neal	12	P/3B
9	Conard Broom	10	P
10	Connor Coakley	12	OF
12	Bryce Bailey	12	1B/3B
13	Sam Walker	10	UTL
15	Logan Peterson	10	C/OF
16	Will Goodman	10	UTL
20	Jake Rogers	10	3B
21	Tucker Bradley	9	P
22	Bay Wright	12	P
23	Hunter Daughtery	12	UTL
24	Zach Cobb	11	P
25	Ryan Armour	11	P
44	Adam Vandiver	12	OF

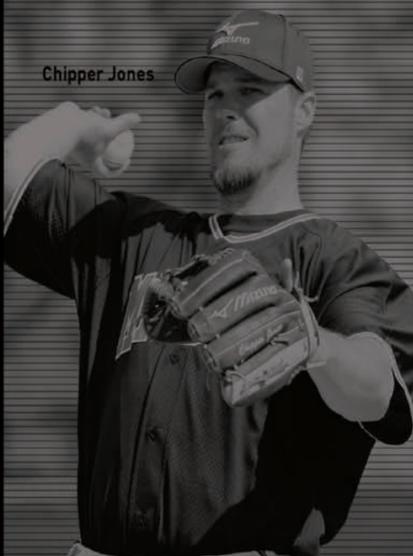
CHARLTON COUNTY

Head Coach: Thad Marchman

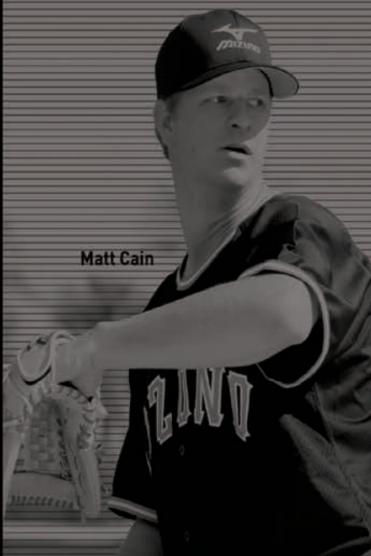
1	Jesse King	11	P/UTL
2	LJ Talley	10	SS/P
3	Jacob Popham	12	IF/P
4	Scott Birchall	10	OF/P
6	Ryan Young	12	3B/1B/P
7	Brandon Dell	10	SS/P
8	Derek King	11	C/OF
9	Joshua Crosby	11	CF/P
10	Brad Baxter	11	C/OF
11	Jacob Baxter	12	SS/P
13	Hamp Huling	11	1B/P
15	Dylan Turner	11	2B/P
16	Richard Dasher	11	3B/P
20	Scott Beasley	12	P/RF
21	Jordan Tallon	9	CF/P
22	Ryan Murray	12	C/OF/P
25	Will Gowen	11	OF/DH



Brian McCann



Chipper Jones



Matt Cain

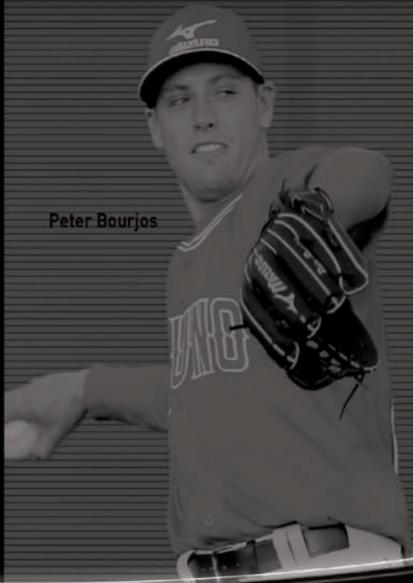


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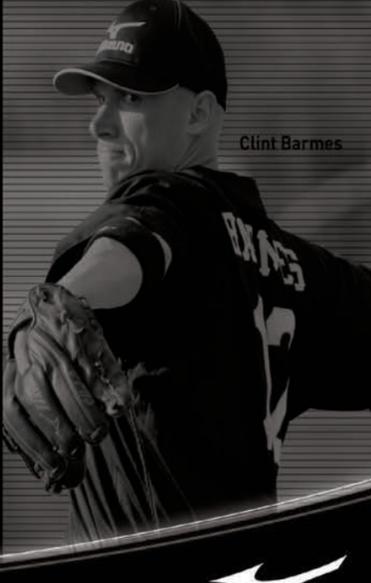
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