

Tight End, Linebacker Among Georgia Signees

Georgia, looking for tight ends and linebackers, came up with one of each Monday to stretch its list of high school signees to 16.

The Bulldogs signed six players to grants-in-aid Monday, including two members of The Constitution's top 40, one of Florida's top 20 and an Alabama all-state performer.

The linebacker signed was Cross Keys' Richard Provlaitis and the tight end, James Brown of Alabama state champion Jeff Davis of Montgomery.

Other Georgia signees were Benedictine running back Chris McCarthy, 5-11, 195; Waycross split end Charles Junior, 6-1, 165; Andy Leeper, 6-0, 190-pound running back from St. Cloud, Fla.; and defensive end Dale Carver, 6-2, 215, of Palm Bay High School near Melbourne, Fla.

Meanwhile, Georgia Tech raised its total to 22 by signing two-way lineman Charles Naile, a 6-3, 230-pounder from Bremen, Ga., and linebackers Mark Biasucci (6-2, 200) and Dwane Wood (6-0, 200) of Miramar, Fla.

Provlaitis and McCarthy were members of the Constitution's top 40, Carver was on the most-wanted list in Florida and Brown was an Alabama all-stater.

McCarthy gained more than 1,000 yards and averaged 5.8 yards per carry. He was named the Savannah area's Back of the Year.

In other signings Monday, Tennessee signed Therrell quarterback Lee Jenkins, 5-10, 175, and South Carolina grabbed Lakeside quarterback Mark Fleetwood, 5-10, 175.

— Tom McCollister

Strong Foes Up Ratings

By Steve Figueroa
Constitution Staff Writer

The Constitution's final high school football poll may contain a few surprises, but strong showings by certain teams in the playoffs made their region opponents look better than records indicated.

In Class AAA, for instance, Woodward Academy finds itself in the No. 10 position despite a 7-4 record. The War Eagles lost twice to No. 7 Marist, however, once to state finalist Dalton and defeated state champion Westminster during the regular season.

Marist's 10-2 record further shows the strength of region 4-AAA, as Westminster handed Marist both losses and spoiled what could have been a championship season.

The same type of reasoning finds Bowdon ranked tenth in AA with a 7-5 record. The Red Devils lost twice to state

champ East Rome, once to No. 5 Mitchell County and once to AAA foe Carrollton.

Swainsboro and Commerce command the No. 2 spots in AAA and AA, respectively, based on stronger showings against the eventual state champ than the finalists in those classes.

High School Ratings

The Constitution's Final Top Ten
Class AAAA

1. Valdosta..... 10-0-1 (1st Georgia)
2. Lakeland..... 11-3
3. Benedictine..... 11-2
4. Thomas..... 9-3
5. Cedar Shoals..... 11-1
6. Northside, W.G..... 10-2
7. Clarke Central..... 9-2
8. Newnan..... 9-3
9. Spalding..... 9-3
10. Spruill..... 9-3

Also receiving consideration: Commerce (7-4), Cherokee (7-3), Douglas (7-4), Atlanta (6-4), Dunwoody (6-3), Fayette Co. (7-4), Laney (9-1), Lowndes (7-4), Meriwether (6-2), Savannah (8-2), Spalding County (8-2), SW DeKalb (6-2-1), Tift Co. (8-3), Warner Robins (8-2), Westside (10-1).

Class AAA

1. Westminster..... 10-2
2. Swainsboro..... 10-2
3. Dalton..... 10-2
4. Commerce..... 10-1
5. Americus..... 11-1

Class AA

1. East Rome..... 10-3
2. Commerce..... 10-2
3. Clayton..... 10-1
4. Henry Perdue..... 10-1
5. Mitchell County..... 10-1
6. Cartersville..... 9-3
7. Lincoln County..... 9-1
8. North Springs..... 11-2
9. Morgan County..... 10-2
10. Bowdon..... 9-5

Also receiving consideration: Bacon Co. (8-3), Blount Co. (10-1), Cedar Grove (10-1), Darlington (7-4), Duluth (8-2), Fulton (10-2), Gilmer (8-3), Greene Co. (8-3), Jefferson (8-1), Marietta (8-2), Lovell (8-4), Manchester (7-3), Model (8-3), Price (9-2), Reidsville (7-3), R.E. (7-3), Taylor Co. (7-2), Turner Co. (9-3).

Class A

1. Buford..... 10-3-1
2. Charlton County..... 9-2
3. Hoopeville..... 9-2
4. Fiddlers Cove..... 9-2
5. Wilkes County..... 10-1
6. Warren County..... 8-1
7. Johnston County..... 8-4
8. Gordon Lee..... 8-4
9. Athens Academy..... 6-3-1
10. Sayre..... 6-3-1

Also receiving consideration: Clinch Co. (7-3), E.C.C. (6-3), Ga. Mt. College (6-3), Monticello (6-4), Mt. de Sales (6-3), Traulsen (9-2), Trion (7-3).

Constitution's Basketball Honor Roll

BILL VERSTEEG-SCOTT NICHOLSON, Dunwoody: Versteeg, 6-foot-2 senior forward, totaled 31 points and 24 rebounds, while Nicholson, also a 6-2 senior forward, scored 28 points as Dunwoody lost to Stephens County and beat Peachtree to raise its record to 5-1.

TINA BLALOCK, Marietta: A 5-8 junior guard, Blalock scored 19 points in a loss to Roswell and 24 in a victory over North Cobb to help her team go 5-2 for the season.

TOMMY THOMAS-CHRIS WADE, Oconee County: Thomas, a 6-1 senior forward, set a school record with 49 points in a 68-45 win over Commerce, and totaled 97 points and 30 rebounds for the week. Wade, a 6-foot sophomore forward, had 31 points and 45 rebounds as Oconee beat Commerce and Opelikese County but lost to East Hall to go 3-2 for the season.

DOUG MAHAFFEY-LONNIE CONNER, Decatur: Mahaffey, a 6-4 senior center, totaled 42 points, 40 rebounds and 13 blocks in three games. Conner, a 6-2 senior forward, won 38 rebounds as Decatur ran its record to 7-0 with a win over Winder-Barrow, Jackson County and Loganville.

GLEN FERGUSON, Upper A: A 6-6 senior forward, Ferguson totaled 52 points and 37 rebounds to lead his undefeated team (4-0) to wins over Central Macon and Americus this past week.

HELEN DENT, Evans: A 5-7 senior guard, Dent had a total of 71 points, 38 rebounds and 14 steals as 5-1 Evans beat

Jackson of South Carolina and Harlem before losing to Hephzibah.

PHIL WALLACE, Dublin: A 6-4 junior forward, Wallace led 4-0 Dublin to wins over Perry and East Laurens with a total of 53 points and 37 rebounds.

CEDRIC THORNTON-WALT BOWEN, Elbert County: Thornton, a 6-0 senior point guard, totaled 43 points and seven assists in three games. Bowen, a 6-2 senior forward, came off the bench to add 29 points and 15 rebounds as Elbert, 4-3, beat Hart County, but then lost to Franklin County and Clarke Central.

SHEILA MANNING-REGINA OSBORNE, Norcross: Manning, a 6-1 senior center, totaled 24 points and 24 rebounds in three games. Osborne, a 5-11 senior forward, had 42 points and 34 rebounds as Norcross beat Parkview, North Hall and South Gwinnett to raise its record to 7-1.

BRUCE BUCK, Barrow: A 6-2 senior forward, Buck had 20 points, 10 rebounds, five assists and two blocked shots as Barrow beat Seauvoan, 47-47, to raise its season record to 3-1.

STEPHEN ZACKERY-GLEN LESTER, Hart County: Zackery, a 6-3 senior forward, scored 41 points and grabbed 19 rebounds, while Lester, a 6-foot senior guard, totaled 32 points and 11 assists as 2-1 Heritage lost to Southwest Macon, but beat North Cobb.

Fields

Continued From Page 1-D

"But when I was coming up in high school and college, I couldn't stand football. When I'm not here (in uniform), I don't want to have anything to do with football. I can't stand to watch football; I've never been able to watch a game all the way through. I've had friends come over and say, 'Let's watch the Monday Night game. I'd say, 'You can take the TV in the bedroom. I'd much rather watch a movie. Any movie.'"

But not the one of an upcoming opponent NFL players study every week.

"You can see a person, and watch it and watch it," Fields said, "and he's going to play you differently than he shows on that film. After you play the first play, you see how he's going to play you."

Greatly influenced by a doting mother and wretched memories of his alcoholic father — who died in 1973 without ever taking the trouble to see his son play — Fields grew up in Austin, Tex., an uninspired student. As a 5-11, 225-pound 14-year old, he went out for the high school team so his friends would quit ragging him.

"I went out for basketball every year of high school," he recalled, "but I always hit somebody in the eye or knocked their teeth out and the coach said, 'You're too rough — go back to football.'"

Mostly, Fields recalls "despising my father," whose body was found in the Colorado River, dead of an apparent heart attack during a booze-added fishing trip. Fields has never taken a drink.

Or the easy way out. He has fathered two illegitimate children, both of whom live in Austin with one-time girlfriends. Although not legally bound, Fields pays child support.

"Regrets? You could say that, but it's hard to when you go home and look at their picture. I hate the way it happened, but I'm not gonna turn my back on them."

Or football, although Fields said, "If I could pick my profession, football wouldn't be it — it would be something more exciting, more secure."

Fields' greatest security stems from his mother and two older sisters. When he speaks of them, his already high voice rises another octave and a grin splits his goateed face. But when Morrow returns to the starting lineup, Fields' grin will be less frequent.

For now, however, he lives for the moment. And it is sweet.

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Big Sky Conference Honors Bruce Collins, Leroy Moreno

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — Bruce Collins of Weber State, an all-conference player back from last year, and transfer Leroy Moreno, Montana State, are the Big Sky Conference's basketball players of the week.

The league said Moreno, a 6-6 forward from Washington, D.C., was honored after scoring 38 points and 19 rebounds in two victories last week.

Collins, a 6-5 junior swingman, scored 60 points, grabbed 22 rebounds and was credited with six steals as Weber beat South Dakota State and Texas Wesleyan before losing a road game to Long Beach State.

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