

GAMEDAY
PREVIEW

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GEORGIA
VS. TN STATE

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The Georgia Bulldogs take the field before their game against the University of Kentucky in Athens, Georgia, on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025. Georgia won 35-14. PHOTO/HOSANNA WORKU

A3	A NEW COMPETITOR	GEORGIA WELCOMES TENNESSEE STATE	A4	SETTING THE TONE	CHRIS COLE COMES FOR IT ALL	B1	LAST SEASON IN PHOTOS	2025-26 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS
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Georgia quarterback Gunner Stockton (14) runs with the ball during a game against Austin Peay at Sanford Stadium in Athens, Georgia, on Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025. Georgia won 28-6. PHOTO/KATHERINE DAVIS

First time foe

Georgia welcomes HBCU opponent in Tennessee State

Ben Kule

For just the second time in program history, Georgia football will welcome a historically Black college or university (HBCU) when it hosts Tennessee State for the season opener. The Bulldogs have never faced the Tigers before.

Georgia has only played one other HBCU on record in its long history: Southern University in 2015. The Bulldogs cruised to a 48-6 victory in that game, highlighted by recently retired running back Nick Chubb's 155 all-purpose yards and three touchdowns. The win capped an impressive 4-0 start that year in which then-No. 7 Georgia outscored its opponents 182-54.

The Bulldogs ultimately went 9-3 with no ranked wins that season, following which they parted ways with former head coach Mark Richt to hire Kirby Smart, who will face an HBCU for the first time as Georgia's head coach.

Tennessee State's program was not in Division I until 1977, and it has only played two SEC teams in its history — one of which was a 2018 matchup against Vanderbilt. In that showcase on an SEC stage, the Tigers nearly shocked the world. The Commodores struggled offensively to start that

game, and two first-half touchdowns gave Tennessee State a surprise 13-10 lead at halftime. Vanderbilt scored the next two touchdowns, but the Tigers rallied with two of their own, reclaiming the lead with just half a quarter remaining. The lead ultimately did not hold, and Vanderbilt snuck away with a 31-27 win.

Eight years later, the Tigers will look to make their SEC hosts uncomfortable once again.

Under Smart, however, taking care of smaller programs has never been much of a challenge. During his tenure, the Bulldogs have gone undefeated against all of their Group of Five and Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) opponents. While some of these wins were blowouts, others have been competitive games.

Last year, Georgia's only FCS opponent was Austin Peay, against whom the Bulldogs struggled to dominate offensively. Quarterback Gunner Stockton had a solid game but registered zero touchdowns as the Bulldogs only won 28-6 despite being 46.5-favorites. Georgia has never lost a game under Smart when massively favored, but he traditionally chooses not to run up the score as the Bulldogs are a surprising 0-15-1 against the spread when favored by 38.5 points or more.

While Tennessee State had an impressive showing against a Vanderbilt team that went 6-6 in the 2018 regular season, its two matches since then against big-name schools were not as pretty: a 55-10 defeat to Mississippi State in 2021 and a 56-3 clobbering by Notre Dame to start the 2023 season.

Beyond its implications on the field, the matchup carries cultural significance for Georgia. FCS schools often heavily rely on the payouts from playing large programs to fund their own football programs. By scheduling a historic HBCU football program, Georgia is helping support the continuation of athletic programs at schools like Tennessee State.

Tennessee State and other HBCUs have not only played an important role in the development of college football and the production of NFL talent, but have also provided immense opportunities for Black athletes and coaches, especially historically when schools like Georgia had yet to integrate their athletic teams.

While many may consider the first-ever matchup between Georgia and Tennessee State a simple tune-up game as the Bulldogs look to claim their third consecutive SEC title and go on a run in the College Football Playoff, it is also an opportunity to recognize the history and resilience of a pro-

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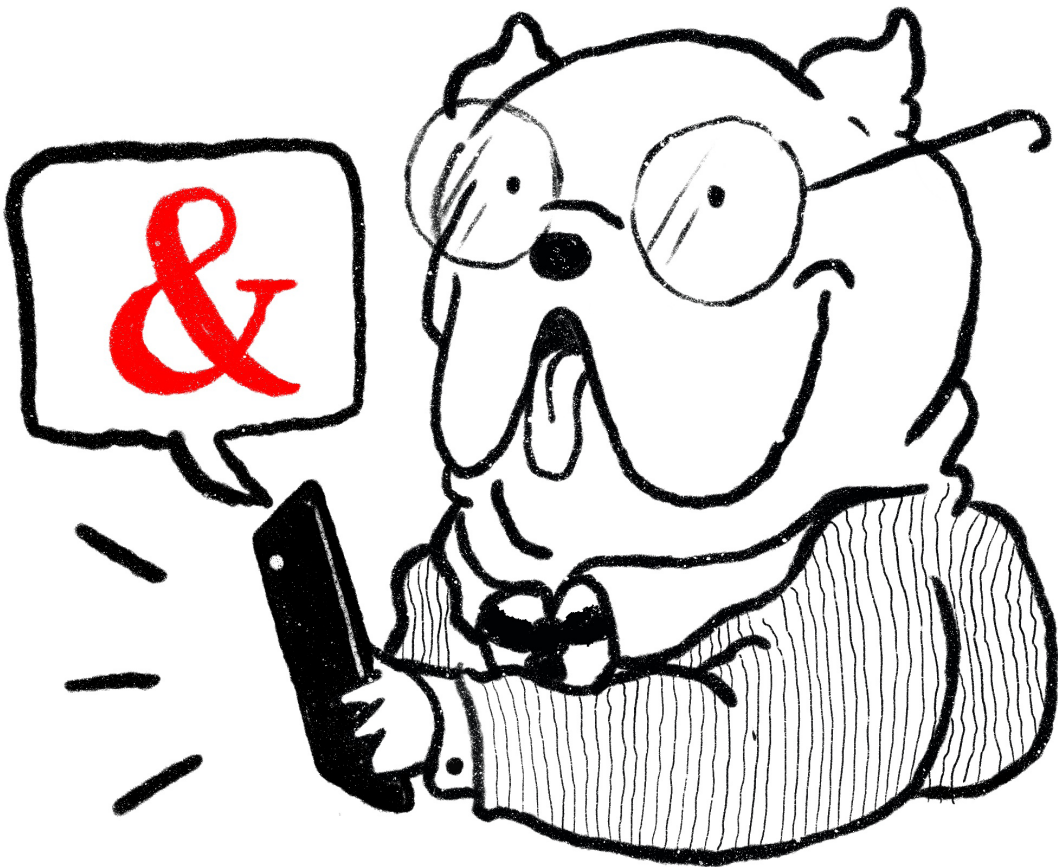
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Georgia wide receiver London Humphreys (16) in action during a game between Georgia and Florida at EverBank Stadium in Jacksonville, Florida on Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024. PHOTO/LANEY MARTIN

Georgia football with plenty to prove

Bulldogs start the season against Tennessee State

Layla Nicholson

After finishing last season 12-2 with its second consecutive SEC championship, Georgia enters 2026 with its sights set on a first national title since the 2022 season. The Bulldogs will open the season at Sanford Stadium against Tennessee State on Saturday, Sept. 5.

The Bulldogs enter the year ranked No. 3 in the preseason AP poll and return quarterback Gunner Stockton for his second year as the starter. Georgia is expected to have little trouble handling the Tigers, but the opener should give the Bulldogs their first chance to figure out how their new offensive pieces fit with a more experienced defense just before the schedule gets much tougher.

Stockton faces a new challenge

Every Georgia quarterback faces a different kind of pressure. For Stockton, that pressure is no longer about proving he is good enough to be under center, but about proving he is good enough to win Georgia what it has fallen short of since 2022: a national title.

Stockton enters his redshirt senior season after starting all 14 games for the Bulldogs in 2025. He completed 69.7% of passes for 2,894 yards and 24 touchdowns while adding 462 rushing yards and a team-high 10 touchdowns on the ground. He also finished seventh in Heisman Trophy voting.

These numbers give Stockton a strong foundation heading into 2026, but expectations surrounding him have changed.

Last season was Stockton's first as Georgia's full-time starter. This year, he is one of the most experienced players on the roster and one of the unquestioned leaders of the offense. That makes Tennessee State a valuable first test, even if the Tigers will not present the same challenge as Georgia's SEC opponents.

For Stockton, the opener is less about whether Georgia can win and more about how efficiently the team can play as a unit. This game, as well as next Saturday's contest against Western Kentucky, gives Stockton a chance to get comfortable before Georgia begins its gauntlet.

Finding the next playmaker

Georgia has plenty of talent, but questions remain about which players will take on bigger roles in the passing game this season.

The Bulldogs lost several significant contributors in that area from 2025, including wide receivers Zachariah Branch, Colbie Young, Dillon Bell and Noah Thomas. That leaves a

new group with an opportunity to establish itself alongside Stockton.

Senior wide receiver London Humphreys is one of the most experienced returning options. The Vanderbilt transfer is entering his third season in Athens and is coming back after scoring three touchdowns in 2025. His chemistry with Stockton could make him an early favorite to emerge as the Bulldogs' top target. But Humphreys is not the only player worth watching.

Georgia added junior Isiah Canion, a transfer from Georgia Tech, while younger receivers such as Talyn Taylor and Landon Roldan are entering the season with opportunities to earn larger roles. The opener could be the first chance for those players to distinguish themselves.

The Bulldogs have often relied on a deep group of receivers rather than one dominant target, and Georgia will need that depth again if they hope to navigate a difficult schedule that includes Oklahoma, Alabama and Ole Miss.

Tennessee State is an ideal opponent for experimenting. Georgia should be able to test many receivers with meaningful snaps without putting Stockton or the rest of the starting offense in danger for four quarters.

The question is not whether Georgia will move the ball, but which players will make a lasting impression while doing so.

Defense looks to make a statement

While most of the conversation surrounding Georgia this off-season has focused on the offense, the Bulldogs' defense has its own question to answer.

Georgia allowed an average of about 17 1/2 points per game in 2025, but the Bulldogs recorded only 20 sacks, the lowest in the SEC. This stat becomes even more alarming considering that in Georgia's two losses last season — against Alabama in the regular season and Ole Miss in the playoffs — the Bulldogs combined for just one sack.

Georgia returns veteran defenders such as linebacker Raylen Wilson and defensive back KJ Bolden, while adding several players who could take on larger roles in 2026. Bolden, now a junior, already has significant experience after starting all 14 games in 2025 and recording 76 tackles and two interceptions.

Ellis Robinson IV, a junior cornerback, enters the season with the potential to be one of the nation's best defenders. Robinson opens 2026 as an AP Preseason All-American and has already made his presence felt in fall camp, where he emerged as one of the Bulldogs' top performers.

Tennessee State averaged 12.9 points per game in 2025, and-

quarterback Byron McNair returns after completing 62.7% of his passes for 1,558 yards and nine touchdowns with six interceptions last season.

Tennessee State has also added quarterback Daylin Lee, a transfer from Winston-Salem State. Lee joins his new team with 5,616 career passing yards and 55 touchdown passes, giving the Tigers another potential option behind center.

Still, Georgia's defensive line and linebackers should have a significant advantage against the Tigers. The opener will be an opportunity for the Bulldogs to try to show that last season's struggles getting to the quarterback will not be a trend going forward.

If Georgia can consistently pressure Tennessee State's quarterback and force the Tigers into obvious passing situations, the defense could establish the tone it wants before SEC play begins.



Georgia outside linebacker Justin Williams (19) and defensive back Ellis Robinson IV (1) make a tackle during a game against the University of Mississippi at Sanford Stadium in Athens, Georgia, on Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025. PHOTO/KATHERINE DAVIS

The Tigers get a head start

Tennessee State will have one advantage that Georgia cannot replicate: the Tigers have already played a game. Tennessee State opened its season Aug. 29 against Jackson State in the John A. Merritt Classic at FirstBank Stadium in Nashville, Tennessee.

While that could help Tennessee State settle into its season faster than Georgia, it may also work against the Tigers. Tennessee State has just one week between its season opener and a trip to Sanford Stadium to face the No. 3 team in the country.

For Georgia, the opener is a chance to knock off the rust. For Tennessee State, it's a chance to shock one of college football's premier programs.

The Tigers will have nothing to lose, while Georgia will have everything to lose when it comes to perception. While that does not necessarily make the game dangerous for the Bulldogs, it does make the opener a chance for Georgia to demonstrate the type of dominant performance expected from a team with championship aspirations.

Prediction

There is little reason to expect Tennessee State to seriously threaten Georgia.

The Bulldogs have significant advantages in depth and talent across the roster, while Tennessee State went 2-10 last season and was picked to finish last in the Ohio Valley Conference again this year.

The more interesting question is how long Georgia's starters will remain on the field.

Georgia should use the first half to establish Stockton and the offense, evaluate its new receiving options and give the defense an opportunity to work out any early-season issues. If the Bulldogs build a comfortable lead, the second half should belong largely to the younger guys on the team.

Tennessee State could find some success late against Georgia's backups, especially with the benefit of having already played a game. But by that point, the Bulldogs should have already comfortably pulled away.

The season opener will not tell Georgia everything it needs to know about its championship potential. It will, however, offer the first glimpse of whether Georgia has found its next group of offensive playmakers, and whether the defense can rediscover the pass rush that's been missing in recent seasons.

Final Prediction: Georgia 41, Tennessee State 10



Georgia wide receiver Talyn Taylor (11) celebrates a first down during a game between Georgia and Austin Peay at Sanford Stadium in Athens, Georgia, on Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025. Georgia won 28-6. PHOTO/ETHAN GREENE

Embracing leadership

Chris Cole to guide the pack

Zach Pascuzzi

They call Chris Cole “Tarantula.”

“We call him that because of the way he covers ground and uses his limbs, how he’s built and stuff like that,” offensive lineman Earnest Greene III said. “As a football player, he’s a freak athlete.”

But the junior linebacker’s impact this season will depend not only on how he performs on the field, but also how he handles the added responsibility of leading those around him.

“His leadership is what we need most,” head coach Kirby Smart said of Cole. “There is not a player of higher character on our team than him.”

Georgia’s linebacker corps lost a major presence on the inside when CJ Allen was drafted to the NFL by the Indianapolis Colts in April. Allen led the team in 2025 with 88 total tackles, eight tackles for loss and two forced fumbles on his way to becoming the latest Georgia linebacker to turn professional.

Such a player is not so easily replaced, but the way Cole describes his desire to learn and improve leaves little doubt that his motivation is real.

“I feel like last year I left a lot on the table,” he said. “There were a lot of times where I had opportunities, and I basically missed the layup. I missed some tackles. This year, I’m very focused on that, and now I have experience and film I can watch to see what I could have done better.”

“His leadership is what we need most... There is not a player of higher character on our team than him.”

KIRBY SMART | HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

Even with limited playing time as an underclassman, Cole has still been one of the strongest pieces in a defense that helped Georgia win SEC titles and clinch College Football Playoff berths in each of the last two seasons. He made the SEC All-Freshman Team in 2024 with 16 tackles, including two for loss, off the bench.

Despite just one start in 14 appearances last season, Cole was invaluable, leading Georgia with 4 1/2 sacks, besting even Allen’s total, to go with about 60 tackles, seven tackles for loss and 21 quarterback pressures.

And in his quest to get better, Cole does not even seem to be breaking a sweat.

“He practices with such max effort that he conditions himself through practice so that the next day he can go further,” Smart said. “He always lays everything on the line and embodies what we want in terms of effort and toughness.”

Cole was not always a linebacker in his football career. 6-foot-3 and 235 pounds now, he was just 5-foot-9 as a freshman at Salem High School in Virginia, and played in the secondary.

“I was playing safety, and then they moved me to linebacker. I had never really done that my whole life, so transitioning to that and playing in the box was definitely different,” Cole said.

“He’s a strainer, he strains for everything,” cornerback Ellis Robinson IV said of Cole, who was also a star track and field athlete in high school. “Every play, he’s running to the ball as



Georgia inside linebacker Chris Cole (9) moves to make a tackle during a game against Ole Miss at Sanford Stadium in Athens, Georgia, on Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025. Georgia won 43-35. PHOTO/KATHERINE DAVIS

fast as he can, no matter if he’s tired or not.”

It will be critically important to Georgia’s defense for Cole to maintain that level of energy, and to not just match, but exceed his numbers from last season.

In 2025, Georgia finished with just 20 sacks, which was the lowest total of Smart’s tenure, the worst mark in the SEC and ranked 115th nationally. For a team that became synonymous with stellar defense in its pair of national championships at the start of the decade, it was almost unfathomable.

“Ultimately, to have an elite championship level defense,

you cannot have any weak spots, especially in the format we’re in now, where you have to win postseason games back-to-back-to-back,” defensive coordinator Glenn Schumann said. “The goal is to create the culture and identity of what we want to be and then make sure that we do not have any of those weaknesses.”

For Cole, now equally important as a playmaker and veteran leader, the task is simple: always make the play when he’s there.

“I just want to come for it all this year,” Cole said.

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GRAPHIC/JACK HESPRICH

OPINION Defense needs to dominate

By Evan Waldman

Since head coach Kirby Smart started leading the Bulldogs in 2016, Georgia has had elite defenses, especially in 2022, when the Bulldogs won their second consecutive national championship.

The historic defense led by four future first-round picks – Jalen Carter, Nolan Smith, Mykel Williams and Malaki Starks – allowed just 14.3 points per game and under 300 yards per game while dominating opponent after opponent on its way to an unbeaten season.

Since then, Georgia has had strong defenses, but none have matched the level of the 2022 squad.

The difference between those defenses and the 2022 group was not always how many yards they allowed, but more about what happened when the Bulldogs needed a stop.

The 2022 Bulldogs consistently got off the field on third down, keeping opponents to a 26.6% conversion rate. Once teams reached the red zone, things did not get easier, as opponents scored touchdowns on just 38.2% of their red-zone trips.

In recent years, those numbers have slipped.

Last season, Georgia allowed opponents to convert 35.1% of their third downs and score touchdowns on 60% of their trips to the red zone. The 2025 Bulldogs allowed a similar number of yards per game as the 2022 defense, but they were not nearly as effective at ending drives.

The pass rush was another major difference. Georgia recorded 35 sacks during its 2022 championship season, compared to just 20 last year. This is where Georgia needs to improve in 2026 to prevent performances like Ole Miss quarterback Trinidad Chambliss’ in last season’s Sugar Bowl.

One player who can help the Bulldogs get back to that level of pressure on the quarterback is sophomore Elijah Griffin.

Griffin showed flashes of what he could become as a freshman, finishing with 22 tackles, 2 1/2 tackles for loss and one sack. As he enters the 2026 season, Georgia needs him to turn those flashes into consistent production.

The Bulldogs cannot expect Griffin to become Jalen Carter or Jordan Davis overnight, but they will need someone up front whom opposing offenses have to worry about. Raylen

Wilson will have to take on a similar responsibility as Griffin at linebacker. Wilson was one of Georgia’s leading run stoppers last season, recording 74 total tackles and 2 1/2 sacks. As one of the veterans of the defense, Georgia needs Wilson to become the player Smart and defensive coordinator Glenn Schumann can rely on in the middle.

That is a role Jamon Dumas-Johnson filled on the 2022 defense as he was an All-American that season and helped lead the defensive unit with 70 total tackles and four sacks. Wilson does not need to play exactly like Dumas-Johnson, but the Bulldogs need him to have the same type of presence, making tackles around the line of scrimmage and communicating with the rest of the defense.

In the secondary, Georgia will rely on preseason AP All-America First Teamers Ellis Robinson IV and KJ Bolden. Bolden established himself as one of Georgia’s top defenders last season, ranking second on the team with 76 total tackles while adding one fumble recovery and two interceptions.

Alongside Bolden, Robinson emerged as a playmaker at cornerback and improved as the year progressed with four interceptions and seven passes broken up.

The 2022 defense had a similar combination in Christopher Smith II and Malaki Starks, who helped make Georgia difficult to attack through the air. Robinson and Bolden will need to provide that same type of presence by limiting big plays and creating turnovers in key moments.

Georgia does not need its 2026 defense to be an exact copy of the 2022 group, but it needs to get closer. The Bulldogs have the talent at every level to do it: Griffin can provide pressure up front, Wilson can lead the middle and Robinson and Bolden can make plays in the secondary.

In the end, Georgia will rely on those players to deliver when it matters most – on third down, in the red zone and late in games. If the 2026 Bulldogs can do that, Georgia has the ability and potential to have a similar outcome to the 2022 team and bring another national championship to Athens.

Evan Waldman is a junior journalism major at the University of Georgia.

NUMBERS TO KNOW: Week 1

#24: Georgia running back Bo Walker

#24

In a game against Charlotte last season with a similar feel to this one between two mismatched sides, then-freshman Walker scored three rushing touchdowns on just nine carries. Now a sophomore, he may feature prominently in this one as well and will look for more opportunities to showcase his skills as he seeks to land a good spot in head coach Kirby Smart’s backfield pecking order. Nate Frazier and Chauncey Bowens are Smart’s obvious first two choices at running back, but having depth never hurts, especially in the wake of Dante Dowdell potentially being out for the season.

#6: Tennessee State running back Zach Simmons-Brown

In the Tigers’s dismal 2-10 season last year, then-freshman Simmons-Brown was one of the lone bright spots, averaging 4.5 yards per carry, the most among Tennessee State players with at least 10 rushing attempts. He will be tasked with replacing Tennessee State’s top rusher from last season, Kendric Rhymes, and should be given a large workload against Georgia, especially as second-year head coach Reggie Barlow may opt for a more conservative, run-based offensive approach to keep the game close for as long as possible.

#6

#80: Georgia tight end Kaiden Prothro

#80

The wide receiver room around quarterback Gunner Stockton is an area of concern this season. London Humphreys and Sacovie White-Helton are the only receivers on the roster to have been with Georgia for two full seasons. Transfer Isiah Canion brings two years of experience at Georgia Tech with him, but aside from that, the depth chart is full of freshmen and sophomores. That could mean a big year for tight ends in Athens. Prothro is a true freshman himself, but standing at 6-foot-6, he has a size advantage over most defensive backs, and offensive coordinator Mike Bobo has reportedly been having him take snaps at wide receiver. Against low-stakes opposition, Georgia has a prime opportunity to test out this intriguing prospect.

#3: Tennessee State wide receiver Tyson Edwards

Tennessee State is returning zero players who had receiving touchdowns last season. Among the returning players, however, is Edwards, who played in only eight games and had just 11 receptions, but averaged a team-leading 16 yards per reception, showcasing his ability to pick up yards after the catch. If Barlow’s wide receiver room has anything positive to build around, it is Edwards, who is projected to be one of the top targets this year for senior quarterback Byron McNair. If he can stay healthy, Edwards could have a great year for the Tigers.

#3

#7: Georgia safety Khalil Barnes

#7

Barnes, coming in from Clemson, represents one of the only significant bits of transfer business Georgia did this offseason apart from Canion. The former North Oconee High School standout’s homecoming gives Georgia another serious weapon in what is already a loaded secondary led by KJ Bolden, Ellis Robinson IV and Demello Jones. Barnes became the first player in the Dabo Swinney era to record multiple forced fumbles and multiple interceptions in a freshman season, so his talent is undeniable. This matchup will preview how well he meshes with the rest of a unit that did not need much reinforcement.

#9: Tennessee State cornerback Byron Davis

Davis was one of the Tigers’ most consistent defensive players last season, recording 37 tackles, a team-high eight pass breakups and one sack. He is first among returners in interceptions and second in quarterback hits. Tennessee State struggled to force turnovers last season, and, much like Georgia, had trouble pressuring and bringing down opposing quarterbacks. That means Davis, who has experience in both of those areas, is now one of the more valuable defensive players on the roster as the Tigers seek to improve in just about every critical area.

#9

Zach Pascuzzi

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Georgia outside linebacker Quintavius Johnson (33) and offensive guard Dontrell Glover (63) celebrate against Austin Peay at Sanford Stadium in Athens, Georgia, on Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025. PHOTO/KATHERINE DAVIS



Georgia offensive lineman Drew Bobo (74) in action during the first half of a game between Georgia and Austin Peay at Sanford Stadium in Athens, Georgia on Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025. PHOTO/ETHAN GREENE

Georgia’s offense setting the standard

A new group to endure in the trenches

Ryan Erdossy

“We want to run the ball,” Georgia offensive coordinator Mike Bobo said.

This sentiment should come as no surprise. For more than a decade, this philosophy has defined Georgia football under head coach Kirby Smart. A new season looms, but the objective remains the same: if Georgia is to have a dominant running attack, it will begin in the trenches.

Last season, Georgia’s ground game set a high standard. The Bulldogs averaged 182.1 rushing yards per game during the regular season. With that production serving as the benchmark, a young offensive line under first-year offensive line coach Phil Rauscher will be tasked with maintaining that standard.

Georgia lost two starting offensive linemen to the NFL Draft, but their departures did not leave the position room inexperienced. At the forefront of that returning experience is center Drew Bobo.

The 6-foot-5, 305-pounder has already been voted to preseason All-America and All-SEC lists. Before a foot injury ended his season in November, he started 11 games and helped Georgia rank third in the SEC in fewest sacks allowed, giving up just 20 sacks during the 2025 season. This fall, quarterback Gunner Stockton will once again take his place behind the senior center to lead the offense.

Drew Bobo has gradually progressed through the

spring and summer as he prepared for the upcoming season. A recent finger injury has added another question mark, but Smart said Drew Bobo has been practicing fully and taking every rep. His experience anchoring the line could prove to be valuable for the younger players surrounding him.

Among the underclassmen is right tackle Juan Gaston, whose freshman season gave him an early glimpse of the responsibility that awaits him this fall. He appeared in all but one game, primarily at guard. Dontrell Glover, who was also a freshman last year, took over the starting role, but Gaston, after recovering, still found himself in the rotation, with Glover settling in at guard. He remained in the starting lineup through Georgia’s run to the College Football Playoff semifinal, gaining valuable postseason experience.

Now, with a full season of SEC play under his belt, Glover will face a new challenge: he is expected to move from right guard to left guard.

Smart, once again, is expected to entrust a true freshman with a starting role this season. Zykie Helton, a Carrollton, Georgia, native, played on both sides of the line in high school, but is projected to start at right guard after seeing time with the first-team offense during the annual G-Day scrimmage. He will be learning on the job, but Georgia has seen young offensive linemen grow into significant roles before.

Earnest Greene III started as a redshirt freshman and is now entering his fifth season in the program. The 6-foot-4, 320-pounder started nine games at right tackle last season. Greene will return to left tackle this fall upon the departure of NFL first-round pick Monroe Freeling, a position he started in his first two years. His experience there includes a Freshman All-American honor, giving Georgia a veteran with proven success at the position.

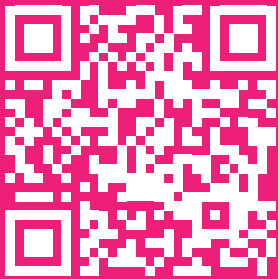
Greene missed several games during the 2025 season due to a lingering back injury but returned late in the season. While his return provides stability at left tackle, Georgia will still need depth in the position group, particularly given the injuries that have affected the offensive line in recent seasons.

Malachi Toliver, Michael Uini and Jahzare Jackson all saw reps as well throughout last season. The Bulldogs also added top recruits Ekene Ogboko and Tyreek Jemison in the 2026 recruiting class. With Smart having previously rotated seven or eight offensive linemen throughout games, Georgia’s depth could allow the Bulldogs to keep fresh legs in the trenches.

Although the offensive line may appear young on paper, the group boasts plenty of experience. At this time last year, only one offensive lineman had more than five starts the season before. If that group can emerge in their roles and stay healthy, Georgia should have the foundation it needs to uphold Mike Bobo’s run-first philosophy and keep the Bulldogs’ ground game among the SEC’s best.

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Caroline Newbern

Deputy Editor of Standards & Practices

How has your coursework at Grady College prepared you for your role at The Red & Black?

Grady College consistently places emphasis on the careful considerations of ethics. Whether that be through practices tied to original reporting and fact-checking or a reminder to consider the implications of stories, the college has provided me with a strong foundation for my position.

What has been the most rewarding part of serving in a leadership role at The Red & Black?

From my time as managing editor to recently stepping into the role of deputy editor, I've enjoyed getting to know and support our dedicated newsroom staff and to celebrate their success while pushing them toward higher achievement.

Major:

Master's in journalism and mass communication

Position Description:

I am responsible for The Red & Black's recruitment efforts; maintain ethical and professional standards across the newsroom; foster an inclusive and diverse work environment.

At Grady College, we are proud of our students who learn the core values, ethics and skills of journalism in our classrooms, then apply them to writing and visualizing features in The Red & Black. This is one in a series of profiles about our student leaders who serve The Red & Black.



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