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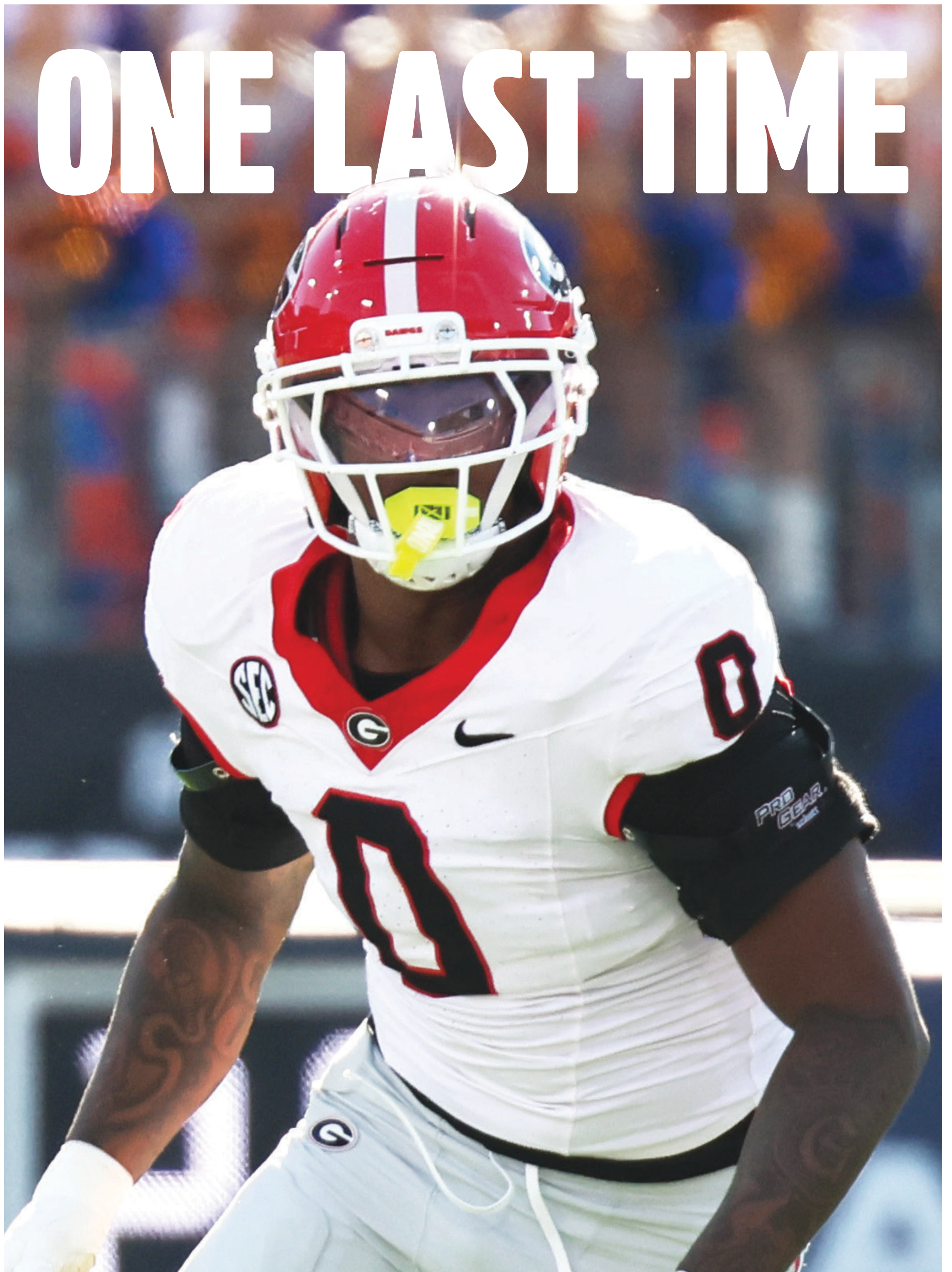
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**GEORGIA
VS. CHARLOTTE**

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Thursday, November 20, 2025



Georgia outside linebacker Gabe Harris Jr. (0) runs during a game against Florida at EverBank Stadium in Jacksonville, Florida, on Saturday, Nov. 1, 2025. Georgia won 24-20. PHOTO/KATHERINE DAVIS

A5 Aussie to Athens Meet Brett Thorson, Georgia's star senior punter

B1 SEC success Recapping Georgia's 7-1 SEC campaign and what's next



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Georgia quarterback Ryan Puglisi (12) stands in the backfield during the opening home game against Marshall at Sanford Stadium in Athens, Georgia, on Saturday, Aug. 30, 2025. Georgia won 45-7.
PHOTO/KALEB TATUM

Stockton's successors

How Georgia's quarterback room is taking shape

Owen McDaniel

Often when Georgia plays a mismatched opponent like it will on Saturday against Charlotte, the Bulldogs are able to rotate in second and third-string players to get some meaningful game experience once the lead is wide enough. As such, Georgia fans usually get a glimpse into the future of the quarterback position. If all goes as planned for Georgia, it should be able to work in a few different signal-callers to get some of their first reps as Bulldogs. Here is an overview of the current Georgia quarterback room, along with a look at what the future could hold for the group.

The present

When last year's starter, Carson Beck, transferred to Miami, there was uneasiness among the Georgia fan base about what the quarterback position would look like in 2025. That uncertainty lingered despite Gunner Stockton's respectable performances in the second half of the SEC championship game against Texas and the College Football Playoff quarterfinal against Notre Dame.

However, Stockton, a man of very few words, has used his actions to quiet those doubts this season, throwing for 2,269 yards and 19 touchdowns and rushing for 350 yards and eight scores while leading the Bulldogs to a 9-1 record. While he won't win a Heisman Trophy or be a first-round NFL draft pick, the redshirt junior has provided the steady presence at the position that Georgia needed after Beck's inconsistencies a year ago.

NFL scouts aren't high on Stockton because he stands at just 6-foot-1, has unorthodox throwing mechanics and hasn't proven his ability to read zone defenses and layer the ball over linebackers and in front of safeties. As a result, he will most likely stay at Georgia for his redshirt senior season and be the unquestioned starter again while the players beneath him on the depth chart continue to develop.

The next men up

Regardless of if Stockton leaves after this season or next, the man currently in position to succeed him is Ryan Puglisi. The redshirt freshman's number has been called each time the Bulldogs have led by enough to bring in backups this season, which, judging from the past, indicates that he is No. 2 on head coach Kirby Smart's depth chart right now.

Puglisi, a Paxton, Massachusetts, native, was a consensus four-star recruit and ranked as the No. 10 quarterback in the 2024 class by 247Sports. In his limited action this season, he has completed 9 of 16 passes for 112 yards, a touchdown and two interceptions — one of which came on a Hail Mary attempt. Puglisi started for the black team in the G-Day game and went 20-for-46 passing for 172 yards, one touchdown and one pick.

Things get a little more cloudy behind Puglisi, but freshman Ryan Montgomery can be penciled in as the third option because he is the only other former four-star recruit in the quarterback room.

The future

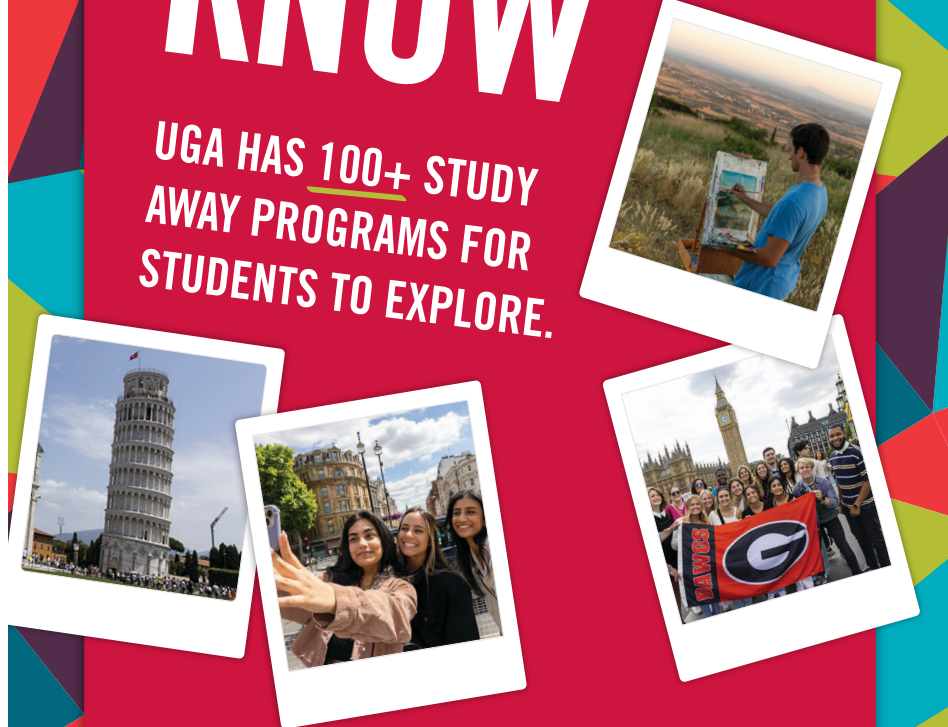
Though Georgia has historically done a good job recruiting quarterbacks, only one five star — Jacob Eason in 2016 — has started for the Bulldogs in the Smart era. That could change in the next few years, as Georgia currently has two five-star quarterbacks commits in the next three classes.

Jared Curtis, the nation's top prospect at his position for the 2026 recruiting class, according to 247Sports' Composite rating, will be Georgia's sixth five-star quarterback and sixth-ranked recruit since 2000 if he signs. A four-year starter at Nashville Christian School, Curtis completed 179 of 255 passes for 2,830 yards, 40 touchdowns and just three interceptions and carried the ball 88 times for 637 yards and 18 scores as a junior last year. This season, he led his team to an undefeated regular season, and several of his highlights went viral along the way.


The last five-star quarterback Georgia landed, Dylan Raiola, was committed to the Bulldogs for seven months before flipping to Nebraska, where he was the starter this season until he suffered a season-ending injury. Should Curtis see his commitment through, he would instantly have a shot at the starting job for the 2026 season unless Stockton returns. If Stockton does stay, Curtis could be well-positioned to take over in 2027. Georgia also earned a commitment from five-star Class of 2028 quarterback Jayden Wade on Nov. 16. While that leaves a long time for Wade to be swayed by other suitors, if he does keep his pledge he could challenge Curtis for QB1.

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Georgia wide receiver Dillon Bell (86) completes a catch during the game between Georgia and Kentucky at Sanford Stadium in Athens, Georgia, on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025. Georgia won 35-14. PHOTO/HOSANNA WORKU

Dawgs vs. underdogs

Previewing the Georgia-Charlotte game

Romell Williams

No. 4 Georgia hosts Charlotte in Athens on Saturday with the postseason right around the corner. The Bulldogs sit firmly among the SEC's elite this season, while Charlotte has struggled mightily in the American Conference. The contrast in trajectories couldn't be starker, which makes this game as much about Georgia maintaining momentum as it is about Charlotte seeking a breakthrough.

Georgia's favorable prospects

The Bulldogs' offense has produced solid numbers this season. Quarterback Gunner Stockton has thrown for 2,269 yards, with a strong 70.7% completion rate and 19 touchdowns against just three interceptions. Stockton's poise in the pocket and ability to extend plays with his legs gives Georgia a dual-threat dimension that Charlotte has struggled against this season. In the 49ers' 54-26 loss to South Florida in Week 6, Bulls quarterback Byrum Brown threw for 211 yards and four touchdowns and recorded an additional 162 yards and a score on the ground.

Running back Nate Frazier has powered Georgia's ground game with 647 rushing yards while averaging 5.5 yards per carry. Frazier's vision and ability to hit cutback lanes makes him a difficult matchup for any defensive front, particularly a Charlotte defense that struggles against the run. Meanwhile, wide receiver Zachariah Branch leads the receiving corps with 583 yards on 59 receptions at 9.9 yards per catch. The Bulldogs will likely look to exploit matchups with Charlotte's secondary and test the coverage skills of the 49ers cornerbacks on quick reads and slants.

The Bulldogs boast one of the better defensive units in the country. Their linebacker corps, led by CJ Allen's 78 tackles, provides stoutness against opposing offenses. Defensive coordinator Glenn Schumann's blitzes have generated pressure and disrupted timing for quarterbacks, which could be a deciding factor if Charlotte attempts to air it out. Turnover margin and field position are additional areas where Georgia is expected to dominate, potentially putting the game out of reach by halftime if early drives go well. The challenge ahead for Georgia is staying sharp against a lesser opponent who will throw everything at it early, while avoiding complacency in the later stages of the game. Georgia's advantages are in its balance, experience and depth, and the Bulldogs must play to those strengths to execute effectively in front of the home crowd.



Georgia outside linebacker Quintavious Johnson (33) celebrates after a tackle during the football game between Georgia and Alabama at Sanford Stadium in Athens, Georgia, on Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025. Alabama won 24-21. PHOTO/KALEB TATUM

Defensively, Charlotte has struggled to stop big plays, allowing 475 total yards per game and 206 rushing yards per contest. The 49ers' ability to get off the field on third down has been inconsistent, making a sustained defensive performance a major challenge against a deep, disciplined Georgia offense. This game represents an opportunity for Charlotte to gain early success, build confidence for next season and avoid a blowout that could put additional pressure on the program. To remain competitive, the 49ers will need to find creative ways to slow Georgia's attack and sustain drives on offense.

Key matchups to watch

Georgia's run game versus Charlotte's run defense will be crucial. With Frazier averaging nine yards per carry across his last two games, the Bulldogs can exploit the gap between their experienced offensive line and Charlotte's vulnerable front. Establishing the ground game early will force the 49ers into predictable defensive looks. On the other side of the ball, Charlotte's receivers will need to challenge Georgia's defensive backs to cover in space and generate chunk plays, which has been a weakness for the Bulldogs this year. If they can force errors through creative play calling, the 49ers might produce some momentum despite the talent disparity.

Third-down efficiency is another area to monitor. Georgia boasts a 46.88% third-down conversion rate, but has allowed its opponents to convert 38.52% of their third downs. Charlotte must avoid extended drives that wear down the defense and sap momentum, and it should look to roll the dice on third and fourth down. The turnover margin will likely be a deciding factor as well. Georgia's opportunistic defense and Charlotte's execution struggles could lead to short fields and scoring opportunities for the Bulldogs.

Both teams' keys to success

Georgia must start fast, avoiding any early lapses that would allow Charlotte to hang around with quick scores. Controlling the line of scrimmage, running the ball efficiently and extending drives will drain the 49ers, who do not have the Bulldogs' level of depth at their disposal. Maintaining discipline on special teams and penalties is essential, as those roadblocks have proven crucial for the Bulldogs in tighter contests this season.

Charlotte, meanwhile, will need to generate sparks through special teams or big plays that stress Georgia's defensive attention. Sustaining drives will be critical. Even if touchdowns are difficult to come by, making Georgia battle for more than seven plays each drive will help the 49ers remain competitive. Charlotte will also need to capitalize on mistakes by Georgia through turnovers, penalties or miscommunications. Keeping the deficit to one or two possessions late forces Georgia to maintain focus and can offer valuable experience to the 49ers.

Prediction

Even if the outcome seems predictable on paper, Saturday's matchup offers plenty for fans to follow and meaningful opportunities for both teams to gain from. The game will likely give Georgia head coach Kirby Smart an opportunity to rotate players and see how younger talent performs in live game situations, providing insight into backups who could emerge as reliable contributors in the future.

For Charlotte, the focus is on incremental progress, reducing large-margin losses, sustaining competitive possessions and building belief for the future. Even if they lose, the 49ers can learn and leave Athens with confidence and momentum to carry into next season.

Prediction: Georgia 45, Charlotte 14

475

Charlotte allows an average of 475 total yards and 206 rushing yards per game.

Charlotte's uphill climb

The 49ers, under first-year head coach Tim Albin, enter this contest as heavy underdogs. Their leading passer, quarterback Grayson Loftis, has thrown for 1,145 yards with eight touchdowns and five interceptions since taking over the starting role when quarterback Conner Harrell suffered a season-ending injury in Week 4. On the ground, running back Rod Gayney Jr. has 231 rushing yards, making him the only 200-yard rusher on the roster thus far. Wide receiver Javen Nicholas leads the team with 676 yards and five touchdowns, averaging 13.5 yards per catch.

Four years, one standard

Georgia's senior core nears final home stand

Braden Brownell

Saturday marks the end of the road for 17 Georgia seniors as they play their final regular-season home game — and potentially their last home game ever, depending on how the College Football Playoff bracket shakes out — against Charlotte.

In an era when the transfer portal and NIL deals have normalized heavy roster turnover, this senior class stands out for its loyalty. Several players chose to stay at Georgia all four years, a rarity given the standard in modern college football. Their commitment through changing teammates, coaches and roles reflects a steady belief in the program and its culture. While this class may not have been as star-studded as some before, its consistency and perseverance helped Georgia sustain its standard of excellence year after year.

Two-time national champs

Among the seniors graduating, two veterans — Cash Jones and Micah Morris — are rare links to Georgia's 2021 and 2022 national championship teams. Both played depth or developmental roles in those historic seasons, but by 2025 have grown into trusted contributors. As part of this senior class, they helped Georgia win SEC titles in 2022 and 2024 and compiled 62 total wins including part of the historic 33-game home-winning streak.

Jones, originally a preferred walk-on, turned down offers from Army, Florida International, Florida Atlantic and was even briefly committed to New Mexico State before head coach Kirby Smart convinced him to bet on himself in Athens. Over five years, he became one of the Bulldogs' most dependable role players. He totaled 233 rushing yards and three touchdowns, along with 492 receiving yards and six scores, carving out a niche as a pass-catching third-down back — especially after Mike Bobo took over as offensive coordinator. He has also been a key member of Georgia's special teams unit, making one of the biggest plays of his career last week when he recovered an onside kick against Texas.

His journey from walk-on to impactful contributor has become a hallmark of the program, which has seen other formerly overlooked recruits, like Dan Jackson and Stetson Bennett IV, take similar paths.

Morris, by contrast, fits the more traditional mold of a Georgia recruit. The 6-foot-4, 330-pound offensive lineman from Kingsland, Georgia, redshirted during the 2021 title season, then appeared in seven games in 2022 as part of the rotation. By 2023, he was Georgia's top backup interior lineman, and in 2024, he played in 12 games with five starts, stepping in when Tate Ratledge and others were injured. He entered 2025 as a preseason All-SEC selection and has been one of the Bulldogs' most consistent presences on an otherwise young offensive line. Morris is also the final remaining scholarship player from the 2021 title team.

Bulldogs through and through

Five other seniors — Oscar Delp, Daylen Everette, Dillon Bell, JaCorey Thomas and Brett Thorson — have spent their entire college careers at Georgia.

Delp arrived as another highly touted prospect from tight ends coach Todd Hartley's recruiting pipeline. He backed up Mackey Award winner Brock Bowers for two seasons, showing flashes when stepping up in Bowers' absence. Delp finished his junior year with 21 receptions for 248 yards and four touchdowns. One of his best performances of the 2024 season came in Georgia's 31-17 win over Tennessee, when he caught four passes for 56 yards and two scores.



Georgia tight end Oscar Delp (4) yells during the 2024 SEC Championship game between Georgia and Texas at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, Georgia, on Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024. Georgia won 22-19. PHOTO/LANEY MARTIN

Everette, a former five-star recruit, emerged as a leader in Georgia's secondary by his junior season. Thrust into a starting role in 2023, he recorded an interception and five pass breakups, though his inexperience occasionally showed. In 2024, he earned the trust of fans, leading the team with three interceptions — including two in the SEC championship game win over Texas that earned him MVP honors. He also picked off Texas in the 2024 regular-season meeting. Now in 2025, he anchors the secondary, regularly locking up opponents' top receivers and contributing in run support.

Bell has worn many hats for the Bulldogs. As a freshman, he primarily played receiver. In 2023, his role expanded into a versatile weapon in Bobo's offense, taking snaps at tailback and running jet sweeps. In a memorable game at Tennessee that year, he threw a 18-yard touchdown pass on a trick play, then caught five passes for 90 yards and another score. Bell has totaled 15 touchdowns and more than 1,500 yards from scrimmage in his career.

These seniors have won national championships, SEC championships and are now leaving Sanford Stadium likely for the last time with only one home loss. Now, they finish the season on the road seeking their final shot at a championship.

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NUMBERS TO KNOW: Week 13

Georgia wide receiver Noah Thomas

#5

With Colbie Young out for the season, Georgia needs a wide receiver to step up and take over some of Zachariah Branch's workload. In the first game without Young, Thomas bobbled a clean pass that was then intercepted by a Florida defender. However, he redeemed himself with a touchdown catch against the Gators, and followed it up with a score against Mississippi State and two against Texas. Thomas will look to continue to carve a bigger role for himself as the X receiver in the Bulldogs' offense.

Charlotte wide receiver Javen Nicholas

Charlotte's visit to Athens will be Nicholas' first time returning to an SEC environment since his three years at LSU. This season, Nicholas has become the 49ers' leading receiver, with 350 total yards and four touchdowns in his last three games. Charlotte will rely heavily on Nicholas against Georgia, as it did against its only other power opponent in UNC, when Nicholas had a career-high 11 catches and 122 yards.

#5

Georgia center Drew Bobo

#74

Bobo has anchored a Georgia offensive line that sits fourth in the SEC in rushing yards per game and second in sacks allowed per game. Bobo has played the second-most snaps on the team behind only quarterback Gunner Stockton, but has yet to allow a sack. He left the Mississippi State game with a hand laceration that prevented him from snapping, and freshman backup Malachi Toliver played well in his absence, but Bobo returned with another strong performance against Texas.

Charlotte defensive lineman Jamarrión Solomon

Charlotte's defense has struggled this season, especially against the run, ranking sixth-to-last in rushing yards allowed per game in the entire Football Bowl Subdivision. When Solomon missed three games, it got even worse, as the 49ers surrendered 285.7 rushing yards per game during that stretch, which would put them firmly as the worst FBS rush defense. Georgia's strong run game should have no problem against Charlotte, but Solomon will likely do his best to limit the Bulldogs on the ground.

#51

Georgia linebacker Zayden Walker

#10

Walker, the 22nd-best recruit in the 2025 class according to 247Sports, hasn't seen much playing time yet, sitting behind CJ Allen, Raylen Wilson and Chris Cole, who highlight one of the country's best linebacker groups. However, Walker recently got his first taste of SEC play, registering three tackles, including a crucial third-down stop and a goal-line stuff, against Mississippi State, and forcing a fumble against Texas that the Longhorns recovered. Walker will most likely get the opportunity to earn valuable playing time again against Charlotte.

Charlotte linebacker Kadin Schmitz

While Charlotte begins to wrap up its sixth consecutive losing season and possibly its worst year in program history, Schmitz has been one of the only bright spots. The junior has the second-most tackles on the team and has also recorded an interception, two pass deflections and two forced fumbles. With Georgia running backs likely getting to the second level fairly easily, Schmitz will be called upon to prevent routine runs from turning into explosives.

#19

By Ben Kule

From farm to field

Brett Thorson brings hard work and humor to special teams

Riley Baugh

Georgia punter Brett Thorson grew up about 100 miles from Melbourne, Australia, on a dairy farm in Dumbalk North in South Gippsland. It is not the typical background for an SEC football player, but it led him from rural Australia to Athens, where he has logged four seasons, a national championship and more than 6,000 punting yards in a Bulldog uniform.

Thorson joined Georgia in 2022 through the prokick Australia program, a renowned training pipeline that has sent dozens of Australian punters and kickers to the U.S. As a freshman, he immediately assumed the role of starting punter. He recorded a career-long 75-yard punt against No. 1 Tennessee and finished the season with 36 punts for 1,620 yards, averaging 45.0 yards per attempt. He was also part of Georgia's 2022 national championship roster, one of 18 current Bulldogs who remain from that title-winning team.

In 2023, Thorson followed with another strong season, totaling 32 punts for 1,403 yards and averaging 43.8 yards per punt. His consistency in flipping field position with his booming kicks has helped Georgia maintain its edge in special teams during its run of dominance under head coach Kirby Smart.

The 2024 season marked Thorson's best yet. He averaged 47.6 yards per punt and landed 22 of his 42 attempts inside the 20-yard line, earning second-team All-SEC honors and becoming a finalist for the Ray Guy Award, given annually to the nation's top punter.

“ It was more excitement; you're out of it for so long that you're just excited to be back out there.

BRETT THORSON | GEORGIA PUNTER

In Georgia's win over Tennessee that year, Thorson made one of the season's most memorable special teams plays when he tackled returner Boo Carter on a punt return, potentially saving a touchdown in a 31-17 win. But later that season, in the SEC championship game, Thorson was injured while attempting to make another tackle. He tore his ACL and MCL, requiring surgery on his non-kicking leg and ending his season early.

The injury meant he missed the College Football Playoff game against Notre Dame and the first matchup of his senior season against Marshall. After months of rehab, Thorson returned to form this season. Through eight games, he has punted 28 times for a 43.7-yard average with a long of 66 yards, his longest since his freshman year, with 13 of those punts landing inside the 20-yard line. For a team that hasn't punted often during Thorson's time as a Bulldog because of its offensive firepower, he has made the most of every opportunity.

Thorson said he wasn't nervous about playing again after a major injury.



Georgia punter Brett Thorson (92) punts the ball during a game against Florida at EverBank Stadium in Jacksonville, Florida, on Saturday, Nov. 1, 2025. Georgia won 24-20. PHOTO/KATHERINE DAVIS

“It was more excitement; you're out of it for so long that you're just excited to be back out there,” Thorson said.

What separates Thorson from most specialists, though, is his personality. His sense of humor has made him one of the most well-liked players on the team. He is active on social media, often posting memes and lighthearted jokes about teammates. When Smart was asked which player he would pick to represent Georgia in a hypothetical SEC comedy show, his answer was Thorson.

That easygoing energy has made him a staple in Georgia's locker room. Whether he's joking with teammates, posing for photos or launching a high spiral that flips the field, Thorson embodies the confidence of a veteran and the humility of someone who never takes his role for granted.

From the fields of South Gippsland to the bright lights of Sanford Stadium, Thorson's journey is one defined by patience, precision and perspective. He has built a career out of doing the little things right and he does them with a grin.

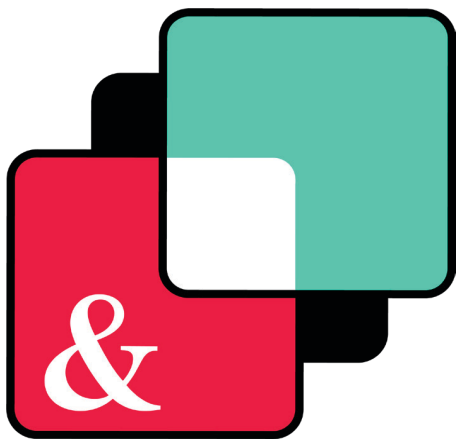
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53						54				55		

ACROSS

- Shock absorber
- Pucker
- Some stay at home
- Bad thing to invoke
- Unbending
- Frenziedly
- Ad conclusion?
- Apple food?
- Subcompact
- Bay tree
- Delivery means
- Salts on deck
- Naval rank
- Bygone leaders
- Be snooty
- Big one
- Fine-tune
- Purchase
- It's often swatted
- Symbol of industriousness
- Camera movement
- Opportunities, so to speak
- Shortened, as a sail
- Does and bucks

- Disdained newspaper
- More than touched
- View from a hill
- Archer of myth
- Cake recipe word
- Blood-bank measure
- Like some awakenings
- Wear and tear
- Casino calculations
- Nostradamus, reputedly
- Acapulco affirmatives

- Ding-a-ling
- Drive or reverse, e.g.
- Circus props
- Scorch
- Court defense
- Wit's end?
- Wisconsin footballers
- Takes one's leave
- Shade of green
- Harder to penetrate
- Worries
- Part of L.E.D.
- Not yet final, at law
- Old flames
- Double header?
- What's more
- It may get flipped
- Wish undone

DOWN

- Just what the doctor ordered, maybe
- Callas specialty
- New member of society
- Contract addenda
- Russian range
- Foldaway, perhaps
- Dishonorable doings
- Curses
- “What Kind of Fool ___?”
- Slip on
- Hit the slopes
- Like hen's teeth
- “___ takers?”

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Highlights from the Week 12 game against Texas

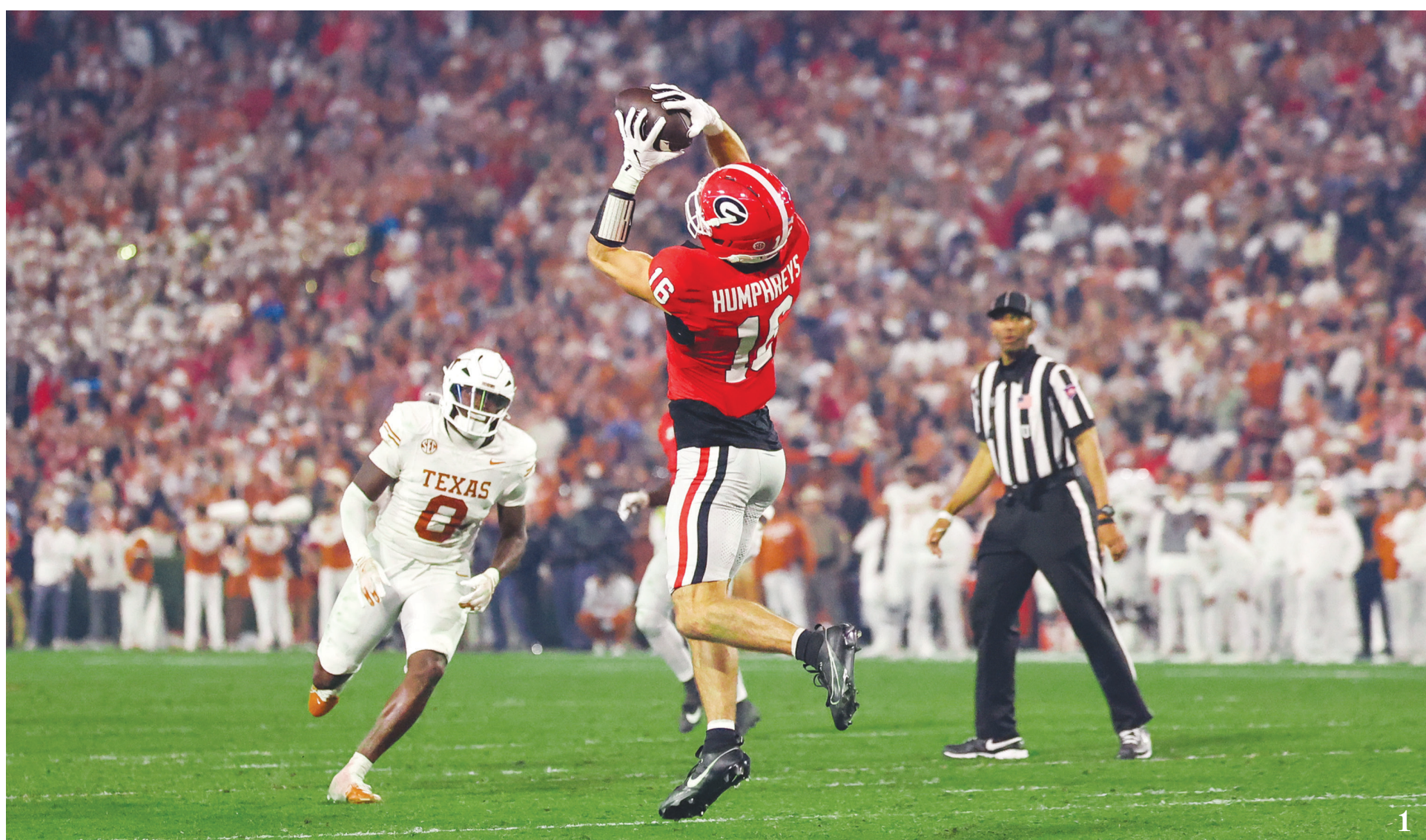


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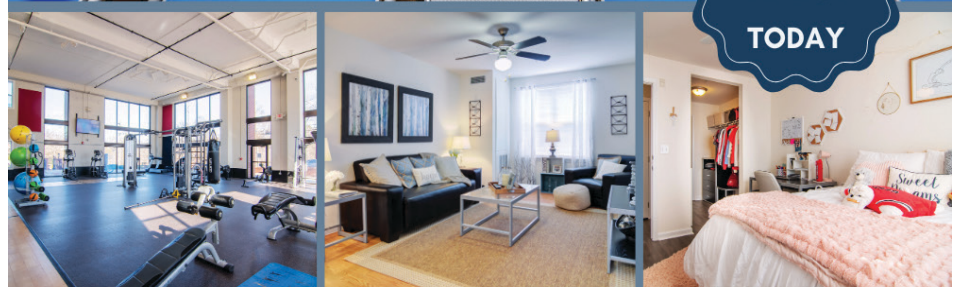
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Zach Leggio

Managing Editor

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

My coursework at Grady and my experiences at The Red & Black have both worked together to strengthen me as a journalist. Grady has taught me so much about journalism ethics, building trust in communities and reporting across multimedia platforms all of which I have brought with me back to The Red & Black to put into practice, get bylines and gain leadership experience.

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

I have loved having the opportunity to grow The Red & Black beyond the University of Georgia campus and to become the only free, independent news source in Athens-Clarke County. I love knowing that Red & Black students serve our audience every single day to tell impactful stories and inform the public in a news desert.

Majors:

Journalism and International Affairs with minors in Human Rights and French

Position Description:

I am in charge of all of The Red & Black's print issues. In the fall, we produce monthly newspapers and football preview papers for every home football game, which means I lead a team to plan, coordinate, edit and layout near-weekly newspapers.

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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Conference schedule recap

Georgia turns in another successful SEC campaign, finishes 7-1

Ben Kule

Georgia has completed its 2025 SEC schedule, finishing 7-1 and in second place — though its place in the SEC title game is still up in the air. Texas A&M controls its own destiny, needing to beat Texas to secure its place in the SEC championship game, while Georgia could hang onto its spot based on how a three-way tiebreaker shakes out.

While the Bulldogs' met their lofty expectations, ranking No. 5 in the preseason AP Poll and No. 4 in the Week 13 poll, the season can be characterized by highs and lows. Some wins came easy, while others were far too close for comfort. Georgia trailed by at least two scores four times in its first five SEC games, only to come back and win all but one of those games.

The 24-21 loss to Alabama in Week 5 ended Georgia's 33-game home-winning streak and added a blemish to the season early, dropping the Bulldogs seven places to No. 12. However, Georgia showed its ability to take a punch and rallied behind quarterback Gunner Stockton to win tough games, including two top 10 wins down the stretch. Many big moments were born from Georgia's heroics, with standout players making the difference.

Stockton proves himself

When the Georgia defense allowed Tennessee to score 21 first-quarter points in the SEC opener, Stockton was left with virtually no room for error. Trailing by two touchdowns, head coach Kirby Smart decided to roll the dice on fourth-and-3 from just behind midfield. Stockton stayed poised and found wide receiver Zachariah Branch for a crucial conversion. Three plays later, Stockton hit Branch on a screen pass that he took all the way for a 36-yard score.

Trailing 38-30 in the fourth quarter on fourth-and-6, instead of kicking a field goal and hoping to make a quick stop, Smart trusted Stockton again. The redshirt junior didn't just look for the first down — he

went for the end zone, completing a lofted pass to receiver London Humphreys for the game-tying 28-yard touchdown. Georgia ultimately escaped Neyland Stadium with a 44-41 overtime win, and Stockton silenced the doubters, proving he can win in the SEC with 342 total yards and three scores.

Lawson Luckie's career day against Ole Miss

Ole Miss was the only opponent Georgia faced this season as the lower-ranked team, and while Georgia ultimately held off the Rebels, it wasn't an easy fight. Ole Miss scored touchdowns on each of its first five drives, putting pressure on the Georgia offense to respond and keep the Bulldogs in the game.

Oscar Delp was expected to emerge as a star tight end for Georgia when he announced his return for his senior year, but it's been more of a group effort, with Luckie and freshman Elyiss Williams both being involved. However, it was Luckie who surfaced as a hero in a game where the teams traded blows all night.

Luckie had two receptions on Georgia's second drive, one of which was an 11-yard touchdown that gave the Bulldogs a 10-7 lead. Ole Miss took a 28-20 lead with a one-play touchdown drive to start the second half, and the Bulldogs needed an answer. From three yards out, Stockton found Luckie on a play-action pass for another score. Two drives later, Luckie delivered the knockout blow with a physical catch to go ahead 40-35. While the junior took a big hit against Mississippi State and has just one reception since, his five-catch, 43-yard, three-score performance cannot be forgotten.

CJ Allen holds off Florida

Georgia's tackle leader in SEC play by a wide margin, Allen was a huge difference maker as the Bulldogs held off Florida 24-20 in Jacksonville, Florida. Allen recorded a season-high 13 tackles, the most of any Georgia defender this season. Allen's fourth

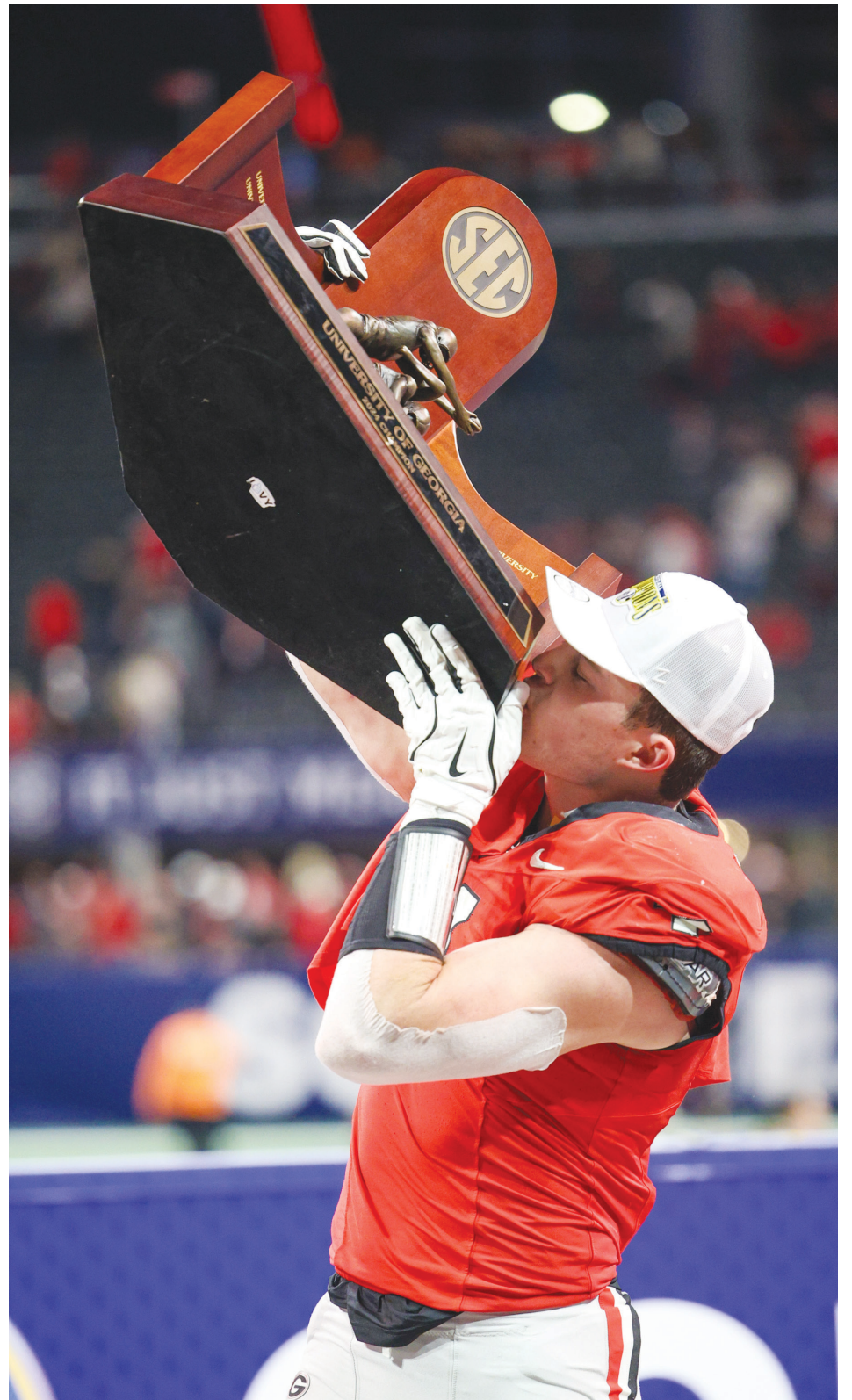
double-digit tackle performance of the season wasn't just helpful — it was crucial. Far too often, quarterback DJ Lagway or running back Jadan Baugh burst past the defensive line and looked destined for a big play. Allen seemingly flew to the scene every time to bring the ballcarrier down short of the first down marker.

Projected to be selected in the first or second round of the 2026 NFL Draft, Allen has been named a semifinalist for the Bednarik, Butkus and Lott IMPACT trophies.

Postseason outlook

With SEC play in the rearview mirror, Georgia will look to take care of Charlotte at home, then win a tough game in Atlanta against Georgia Tech. Unless both Alabama and Ole Miss lose in Week 14, the Bulldogs' spot in the SEC title game will depend on the results of other SEC games that week.

Either way, Georgia has a lot to be proud of as it handled the SEC gauntlet and will now focus on bringing home more hardware.



Georgia tight end Oscar Delp (4) holds the SEC championship trophy after the 2024 SEC championship game between Georgia and Texas at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, Georgia, on Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024. Georgia won 22-19. PHOTO/LANEY MARTIN

El ala cerrada de Georgia, Oscar Delp (4), sostiene el trofeo del campeonato de la SEC después del partido por el campeonato de la SEC de 2024 entre Georgia y Texas en el Mercedes-Benz Stadium en Atlanta, Georgia, el sábado 7 de diciembre de 2024. Georgia ganó 22-19. FOTO/LANEY MARTIN

Resumen del calendario de la conferencia

Georgia logra otra exitosa campaña en la SEC, termina 7-1

Ben Kule, Traducción: Nathan Valles

Georgia ha completado su calendario 2025 de la SEC, terminando 7-1 y en segundo lugar. Texas A&M controla su propio destino, necesitando vencer a Texas para asegurar su lugar en el juego de campeonato de la SEC, mientras que Georgia podría mantener su puesto dependiendo de cómo se resuelva un desempate de tres equipos.

Aunque los Bulldogs cumplieron con sus elevadas expectativas —clasificados quintos en la encuesta AP de pretemporada y cuartos en la encuesta de la Semana 13— la temporada puede describirse como una mezcla de altos y bajos. Algunas victorias llegaron fácilmente, mientras que otras fueron demasiado ajustadas para sentirse cómodas. Georgia estuvo abajo por dos anotaciones o más en cuatro de sus primeros cinco juegos de la SEC, pero logró remontar y ganar todos menos uno de ellos.

La derrota 24-21 ante Alabama en la Semana 5 terminó con la racha de 33 victorias consecutivas en casa de Georgia y añadió un contratempo temprano en

la temporada, haciendo que los Bulldogs cayeran siete puestos hasta el No. 12. Sin embargo, Georgia demostró su capacidad para recuperarse y reagruparse detrás del mariscal de campo Gunner Stockton para ganar juegos difíciles, incluidos dos triunfos contra equipos del Top 10 en la recta final. Muchos grandes momentos nacieron de las hazañas de Georgia, con jugadores destacados marcando la diferencia.

Stockton se consolida

Cuando la defensa de Georgia permitió que Tennessee anotara 21 puntos en el primer cuarto del partido inaugural de la SEC, Stockton quedó con prácticamente ningún margen de error. Con desventaja de dos touchdowns, el entrenador Kirby Smart decidió arriesgarse en cuarta y tres desde la mitad del campo. Stockton se mantuvo sereno y encontró al receptor Zachariah Branch para una conversión crucial. Tres jugadas después, Stockton conectó con Branch en un pase pantalla que este llevó hasta la zona de anotación para un touchdown de 36 yardas.

Perdiendo 38-30 en el último cuarto y en cuarta y seis, en lugar de patear un gol de campo y esperar una detención rápida, Smart volvió a confiar en Stockton. El mariscal de campo de tercer año no solo buscó el primer down: buscó la zona de anotación, completando un pase elevado al receptor London Humphreys para un touchdown de 28 yardas que empató el juego. Georgia finalmente escapó del Neyland Stadium con una victoria 44-41 en tiempo extra, y Stockton silenció a los escépticos con 342 yardas totales y tres anotaciones.

El mejor día de la carrera de Lawson Luckie contra Ole Miss

Ole Miss fue el único rival esta temporada ante el que Georgia llegó como el equipo de menor clasificación, y aunque Georgia finalmente venció a los Rebels, no fue una pelea fácil. Ole Miss anotó touchdowns en cada una de sus primeras cinco series, poniendo presión sobre la ofensiva de Georgia para responder y mantener a los Bulldogs en el juego.

Oscar Delp se esperaba que emergiera como la estrella en la posición de ala cerrada cuando anunció su regreso para su último año, pero ha sido más bien un esfuerzo conjunto, con Luckie y el novato Elyiss Williams participando. Sin embargo, fue Luckie quien se destacó como héroe en un partido donde ambos equipos intercambiaron golpes toda la noche.

Luckie tuvo dos recepciones en la segunda serie de Georgia, incluyendo una que le dio una ventaja de 10-7 con un touchdown de 11 yardas. Ole Miss tomó una ventaja de 28-20 con un touchdown en una sola jugada al inicio de la segunda mitad, y los Bulldogs necesitaban una respuesta. Desde la yarda tres, Stockton encontró a Luckie en un pase play-action para otro touchdown. Dos series más tarde, Luckie dio el golpe final con una recepción física para poner el

marcador 40-35. Aunque el estudiante de tercer año recibió un fuerte golpe contra Mississippi State y solo tiene una recepción desde entonces, su actuación de cinco recepciones, 43 yardas y tres touchdowns no será olvidada.

C.J. Allen frena a Florida

Líder de Georgia en tacleadas durante juegos de la SEC por un amplio margen, Allen fue un factor decisivo mientras los Bulldogs aguantaban para vencer a Florida 24-20 en Jacksonville. Allen registró 13 tacleadas, su máximo de la temporada y la mayor cantidad para cualquier defensor de Georgia este año.

Las actuaciones de Allen con cifras de dos dígitos en tacleadas no solo fueron útiles, sino cruciales. En demasiadas ocasiones, el mariscal D.J. Lagway o el corredor Jadan Baugh rompieron la línea defensiva y parecían destinados a una jugada grande. Allen parecía aparecer de la nada cada vez para detener al portador del balón antes del primer down.

Proyectado como selección de primera o segunda ronda en el Draft de la NFL 2026, Allen ha sido nombrado semifinalista para los trofeos Bednarik, Butkus y Lott IMPACT.

Panorama de postemporada

Con los juegos de la SEC ya en el retrovisor, Georgia buscará encargarse de Charlotte en casa, luego ganar un duro partido en Atlanta contra Georgia Tech. A menos que Alabama y Ole Miss pierdan ambos en la Semana 14, el lugar de los Bulldogs en el juego por el título de la SEC dependerá de los resultados de otros juegos de la conferencia esa semana.

Pero de cualquier forma, Georgia tiene mucho de qué estar orgullosa tras superar la dura prueba de la SEC, y ahora se enfocará en traer más trofeos a casa.



Georgia wide receiver Dillon Bell (86) runs the ball during a game against the University of Mississippi at Sanford Stadium in Athens, Georgia, on Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025. PHOTO/CAROLINE NEWBERN

El receptor abierito de Georgia, Dillon Bell (86), corre con el balón durante un partido contra la Universidad de Misipi en el Sanford Stadium en Athens, Georgia, el sábado 18 de octubre de 2025. FOTO/CAROLINE NEWBERN

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Georgia wide receiver Dillon Bell (86) runs with the ball during the game between Georgia and Alabama at Sanford Stadium in Athens, Georgia, on Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025. Alabama won 24-21.
PHOTO/KALEB TATUM

OPINION: SEC supremacy

The SEC has earned its reputation as college football's best conference

Liam W. Dreesen

The SEC is the best college football conference in the country. This point has become an argument or is at least being overlooked when people start complaining about rankings or media coverage.

The SEC not only has the talent to be the best conference in the country, it also has the results to back it up. Since 2000, the SEC has captured the most national championships with 16. The Big Ten is in second with five, and the ACC trails with four.

While the Big Ten has won the past two titles, and many claim that the power is shifting, the record proves that the SEC has consistently been the best and most successful conference since the turn of the century.

Since 1998, the SEC is 318-244 against any major conference opponents during that stretch and holds a winning record against every conference except the Big East, which hasn't existed since 2012.

On a year-to-year basis, other conferences can produce top-end teams that are able to compete for national championships, but the top-to-bottom talent of the SEC is

unrivaled by any other conference, and that is backed up by both the gaps in total national championships and the head-to-head record.

The depth of the conference is a result of the SEC being located in the heart of the South, where high school football thrives. This allows all of the SEC teams to tap into some of the best recruiting pipelines in the country and consistently bring in top recruiting classes.

NFL general managers and coaches also know the SEC is filled with talented players, and that is backed up by the SEC having the most players on active NFL rosters at the start of the 2025 season, with 451.

This plethora of talent in the conference makes it the conference in the nation with the most depth of skill and is a major reason the SEC finds so much success.

Most people will admit that the SEC is the best conference in the country, or at least that it has the best talent. Yet, there are still sports commentators such as Barstool Sports founder and social media personality Dave Portnoy complaining about SEC bias in the College Football Playoff rankings or in the amount of coverage the SEC receives.

Currently, nine SEC teams are ranked in the Week 13 AP Poll. That ranks ahead of the Big Ten, which has five. That is a reasonable gap considering the SEC is 10-3 against the rest of the Power Four conferences this year and 2-1 against the Big Ten, with the Big Ten's only win over the SEC coming from top-ranked Ohio State.

Some fans have also voiced their discontent with ESPN choosing to host "College GameDay" at SEC schools for a lot of their shows. The show has been to an SEC versus SEC matchup four times this season, a Big Ten matchup three times and a Big 12 or ACC matchup once. These numbers don't include Weeks 1, 2, 4 and 12, when the show went to various nonconference games.

Though these disparities exist, the difference between the conferences is not drastic, and the SEC has proven that they are the most competitive conference over the past 25 years.

Someone is always going to have a problem with the rankings or where "College GameDay" chooses to go, but the SEC has earned the right to be featured because, year in and year out, its teams play the best football in the country top to bottom.

Sophomore success

KJ Bolden embraces central role in second season

Owen McDaniel

It has become increasingly rare for true freshmen to get any meaningful snaps at Georgia, as head coach Kirby Smart has built plenty of depth at each position through nine consecutive years of owning a top-5 recruiting class in the nation. KJ Bolden didn't just get meaningful snaps as a freshman last year, he made it impossible for Smart to not play him.

The former five-star safety impressed in spring practices and fall camp leading up to his first season in Athens, then met expectations when Smart trusted him with 49 snaps against No. 14 Clemson in the season opener. Bolden rotated in with veterans Malaki Starks and Dan Jackson the rest of the year, totaling the sixth-most snaps on the defense. He recorded 59 tackles, ranking fifth on the team, and surrendered just 121 yards in coverage, earning SEC All-Freshman Team honors.

"Coming in with your head in the right space, you got the older guys there for you, so I feel like you should just use them as a guide, ask them a lot of questions," Bolden said in an interview with the I Am Athlete podcast. "I'd always be in the facility — never just be one of the guys who gets in there and is ready to go home. You gotta love football. I feel like that helped me out."

Although he's just a sophomore, Bolden has already emerged as one of the vocal leaders of the defense this season. With Jackson and Starks in the NFL, Bolden has the most game experience of the current safety room, and he said both younger and older players have recognized that.

"You wanna be vocal as a group, everybody looks up to you, like all the younger guys coming in, even some older guys feel like you're a big dog, they're gonna be behind you," Bolden said. "I feel like just working 110% every day, going out there and working because I feel like people are watching. If I go out there and I'm messing around, it gives off bad vibes to everybody and some people could pick up on that."

Bolden has led with his play, too. He has tallied 50 tackles through 10 games — third most on the team. He is also one of two Bulldogs with multiple interceptions, reading the eyes of Tennessee quarterback Joey Aguilar



Georgia outside linebacker Quintavius Johnson (33) and defensive back KJ Bolden (4) celebrate after a tackle during the football game between Georgia and Alabama at Sanford Stadium in Athens, Georgia, on Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025. Alabama won 24-21.
PHOTO/KALEB TATUM

and Texas quarterback Arch Manning to pick off errant throws.

Bolden had perhaps the best game of his career during Georgia's 41-21 victory over Mississippi State. He registered a career-high 10 tackles, allowed just four receptions while being targeted seven times and recovered a fumble.

Smart said that Bolden's development of his on-field communication skills have helped him blossom even more this year.

"His biggest growth this year is in being in a room where he has to step to the forefront and be a leader and communicate more," Smart said. "Where he relied on other guys to communicate in the past, he is the lead communicator on the back end now. And he's done a nice job of that."

Going forward, Georgia will need Bolden to continue to be a tone-setter on defense. In the final game before the playoffs, the Bulldogs face a Georgia Tech offense that currently ranks first in the country in yards per game and utilizes the quarterback run frequently, so Bolden's run support will be crucial.

Bolden's rise from the freshman standout to dependable leader comes at the perfect time for Georgia, which will rely on his leadership and physicality as the defense enters its most demanding stretch of the year.



Georgia defensive back KJ Bolden (4) stands on the field during the second half of a game against Texas at Sanford Stadium in Athens, Georgia, on Saturday, Nov. 15, 2025. Georgia won 35-10. PHOTO/ZACH LEGGIO

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