

CFF has come a long way in 5 years

Aug. 31, 2007. That's the date the first Cobb Football Friday rolled off the press and out to the public.

Since then, we have added another 58 of them to the stack and, in that time, we've seen three more schools — Allatoona, Mount Paran Christian and North

Cobb Christian — begin varsity football. We've had a pair of national champions with the Auburn Tigers — Harrison's Darvin Adams and Lassiter's Philip Lutzenkirchen

— a pair of Parade All-Americans — Lassiter's Hutson Mason and Kell's Brian Randolph — and we've had no less than 57 different players earn all-state recognition.

What that means is Cobb County can play some good high school football.

So while many of our schools are taking their bye week this week, we'd like to give everyone a little something to chew on — and hopefully something to talk about.

We present the Cobb Football Friday 5-Year Team.

And let me tell you, this one was not an easy team to choose.

Consider this: eight all-state first-teamers did not make the anniversary squad, including an 1,800-yard rusher in Walton's Michael Boydston, a 1,000-yard receiver in the Raiders' Price Garrett and a line-backer in Sprayberry's Blake Young who had over 140 tackles his senior year.

This is a heavy-duty crowd we're talking about here.

While compiling the team, there were really only three automatic choices: Mason, who was the Georgia All-Classification Player of the Year in 2009, the late Rajaan Bennett, who garnered Class AAAAA Offensive Player of the Year honors that same year and Randolph, who was a three-time all-state first teamer and the Class AAAA Defensive Player of the Year in 2010. There was deliberation with everyone else.

There was no requirement in having to be an all-state performer to make the team, but 29 of the 30 representatives were. The only one that wasn't was Walton punter Richard Kent.

Actually, the only requirement was players had to play from the 2007 season to the present.

The representation is nearly spread out evenly — three players graduated following the 2007 season, six after 2008, eight in 2009, five from 2010 and six players are still playing this year.

We have players from 12 different schools and three classifications, and nearly everyone had the opportunity to play in Division I.

Now we would like to know what you think. Let us know what you think about the 5-Year team. Did we get it right? Where did we miss?

While you are at it, offer the same feedback on Cobb Football Friday overall.

It's hard to imagine we started with only the eight-page special section back in '07. Since then we've grown to include cobbfootballfriday.com where you can find our twice-weekly webcasts to help preview the week's games and show you what happened on Friday night and a live real-time scoreboard.

And now you can follow us on Twitter where we tweet from the game of the week and keep everybody up to date with scores on the go. There's also the Cobb Football Friday Facebook page where you can keep up with all the breaking high school football news.

The whole thing has gotten a lot bigger than we ever imagined it would when we were planning it in the early months of 2007. From here, we just hope to keep getting better as we go along, and even we don't know what the next big thing will be to make it grow again.


We just hope that it's here for a long time to come.


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5-YEAR TEAM


OFFENSE


BACKS

HUTSON MASON LASSITER
QUARTERBACK

C/A 313-482
YARDS 4,560
TDS 54
YEAR 2009
 NAMED MR. FOOTBALL IN GEORGIA IN 2009 AND A PARADE ALL-AMERICAN. MASON CURRENTLY IS THE BACKUP QUARTERBACK AT GEORGIA

RAJAAN BENNETT MCEACHERN
RUNNING BACK

CARRIES 213
YARDS 1,857
TDS 27
YEAR 2009
 NAMED THE 2009 CLASS AAAAA OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR. BENNETT EARNED A SCHOLARSHIP TO VANDERBILT.

MILES JONES ALLATOONA
RUNNING BACK

CARRIES 304
YARDS 1,939
TDS 19
YEAR 2010
 NAMED CLASS AAA ALL-STATE FIRST-TEAM IN 2010. JONES IS CURRENTLY BEING RECRUITED BY MISSISSIPPI STATE, KENTUCKY AND MARYLAND.

GREG FRANKLIN MARIETTA
RUNNING BACK

CARRIES 224
YARDS 1,575
TDS 18
YEAR 2009
 EARNED CLASS AAAAA ALL-STATE HONORABLE MENTION IN 2009. FRANKLIN IS CURRENTLY A STARTING RUNNING BACK AT UAB.

KENYAN DRAKE HILLGROVE
RUNNING BACK

CARRIES 145
YARDS 1,002
TOTAL TDS 16
YEAR 2010
 EARNED CLASS AAAAA ALL-STATE HONORABLE MENTION IN 2010. DRAKE HAS COMMITTED TO ALABAMA.


OFFENSIVE LINE


THOMAS O'REILLY POPE
OFFENSIVE LINE

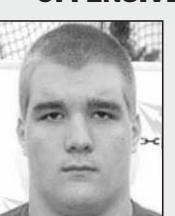
YEAR 2010
 A TWO-TIME ALL-STATE FIRST-TEAM SELECTION. O'REILLY IS CURRENTLY AN OFFENSIVE LINEMAN AT AUBURN.

GRANT RAMSAY POPE
OFFENSIVE LINE


YEAR 2009
 EARNED CLASS AAAAA ALL-STATE HONORABLE MENTION IN 2009. RAMSAY IS CURRENTLY AN OFFENSIVE LINEMAN AT VANDERBILT.


XAVIER HEMINGWAY MCEACHERN
OFFENSIVE LINE

YEAR 2010
 NAMED CLASS AAAAA ALL-STATE FIRST-TEAM IN 2010. HEMINGWAY IS CURRENTLY AN OFFENSIVE LINEMAN AT CONNECTICUT.


JAY FINCH KENNESAW MOUNTAIN
OFFENSIVE LINE

YEAR 2008
 A CLASS AAAAA ALL-STATE FIRST-TEAM SELECTION IN 2008. FINCH IS CURRENTLY THE STARTING CENTER AT GEORGIA TECH.

CAMDEN WENTZ LASSITER
OFFENSIVE LINE

YEAR 2008
 A CLASS AAAAA ALL-STATE FIRST-TEAM SELECTION IN 2008. WENTZ IS CURRENTLY THE STARTING CENTER FOR NORTH CAROLINA STATE.

RECEIVERS


DARVIN ADAMS HARRISON
WIDE RECEIVER

CATCHES 48
YARDS 744
TDS 10
YEAR 2007
 EARNED 2007 CLASS AAAAA HONORABLE MENTION AND WENT ON TO BE THE LEADING RECEIVER ON AUBURN'S 2010 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

GARRETT BROWN POPE
WIDE RECEIVER

CATCHES 85
YARDS 1,086
TDS 11
YEAR 2009
 A CLASS AAAA ALL-STATE FIRST-TEAM SELECTION IN 2010. BROWN WAS ACCEPTED TO THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY.

GRIFFIN ROELLE LASSITER
WIDE RECEIVER

CATCHES 76
YARDS 1,233
TDS 15
YEAR 2009
 A CLASS AAAAA ALL-STATE FIRST-TEAM SELECTION IN 2009. ROELLE IS CURRENTLY A WIDE RECEIVER AT VALDOSTA STATE.


PHILIP LUTZENKIRCHEN LASSITER
TIGHT END


CATCHES 72
YARDS 1,000
TDS 7
YEAR 2008
 A CLASS AAAAA ALL-STATE FIRST-TEAM SELECTION. HE IS CURRENTLY THE STARTING TIGHT END AT AUBURN AND WAS A MEMBER OF THE TIGERS' 2010 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM


JERRICK MCKINNON SPRAYBERRY
ATHLETE

PASS YDS. 1,450
RUSH YDS. 1,400
PASS/RUSH TD 14/14
YEAR 2009
 A CLASS AAAA ALL-STATE FIRST-TEAM SELECTION IN 2009. MCKINNON IS CURRENTLY THE BACKUP QUARTERBACK AT GEORGIA SOUTHERN.


DEFENSE AND SPECIAL TEAMS

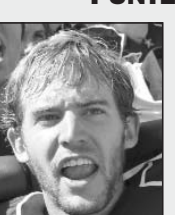
DEFENSIVE LINE

CHASE THOMAS WALTON
DEFENSIVE LINE

TACKLES 35
SACKS 15
YEAR 2007
 NAMED CLASS AAAAA ALL-STATE FIRST-TEAM IN 2007. THOMAS IS CURRENTLY A PRESEASON ALL-PAC-12 LINEBACKER AT STANFORD.

DERRICK LOTT NORTH COBB
DEFENSIVE LINE

TACKLES 110
SACKS 10
TFL 18
YEAR 2008
 A CLASS AAAAA ALL-STATE FIRST-TEAM SELECTION. LOTT IS CURRENTLY A DEFENSIVE END AT GEORGIA

DARIUS ENGLISH MCEACHERN
DEFENSIVE LINE

TACKLES 73
SACKS 15
YEAR 2010
 A CLASS AAAAA ALL-STATE FIRST-TEAM SELECTION IN 2010. ENGLISH HAS COMMITTED TO SOUTH CAROLINA.

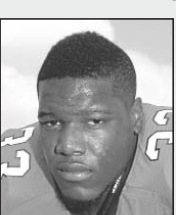
TAVONTE DRAKE MCEACHERN
DEFENSIVE LINE

TACKLES 46
SACKS 15
YEAR 2009
 A CLASS AAAAA ALL-STATE FIRST-TEAM SELECTION IN 2009. DRAKE EARNED A SCHOLARSHIP TO SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI.


RICHARD KENT WALTON
PUNTER

AVG. 39.5
YEAR 2007
 KENT IS CURRENTLY THE PUNTER AT VANDERBILT.


LINEBACKERS

JABARI HUNT-DAYS HILLGROVE
LINEBACKER

TACKLES 137
TFL 11
INT 2
YEAR 2010
 A CLASS AAAAA ALL-STATE FIRST-TEAM SELECTION IN 2010. DAYS IS CURRENTLY A LINEBACKER AT GEORGIA TECH.

JORDAN CHAMBERS KELL
LINEBACKER

TACKLES 130
SACKS 3
INT 3
YEAR 2010
 A CLASS AAAAA ALL-STATE FIRST-TEAM SELECTION IN 2010. CHAMBERS IS CURRENTLY BEING RECRUITED BY WAKE FOREST, SOUTHERN MISS AND TROY.


RIP ROWAN LASSITER
LINEBACKER

TACKLES 110
INT. 5
FUM. REC. 3
YEAR 2008
 A CLASS AAAAA ALL-STATE FIRST-TEAM SELECTION IN 2008. ROWAN IS CURRENTLY A STARTING DEFENSIVE LINEMAN FOR AUSTIN PEAY.


WILLIAM SMALLS SOUTH COBB
LINEBACKER

TACKLES 123
YEAR 2010
 A CLASS AAAAA ALL-STATE SECOND-TEAM SELECTION IN 2010. SMALLS IS CURRENTLY A LINEBACKER FOR FLORIDA A&M.

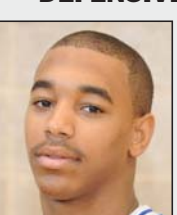
ROBBIE GODHIGH HARRISON
KICK RETURNER


CARRIES 208
YARDS 1,328
TDS 20
YEAR 2008
 A CLASS AAAAA ALL-STATE FIRST-TEAM SELECTION IN 2008. GODHIGH IS CURRENTLY A BACKUP RUNNING BACK AT GEORGIA TECH.


DEFENSIVE BACKS

BRIAN RANDOLPH KELL
DEFENSIVE BACK

CARRIES DFGDF
YARDS xx
TDS DDFDHD
YEAR 2010
 A PARADE ALL-AMERICAN, THE CLASS AAAA DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR IN 2010 AND A THREE-TIME ALL-STATE DEFENSIVE BACK NOW AT TENNESSEE

ZACK BLAYLOCK WALTON
DEFENSIVE BACK

TACKLES 76
INT 4
YEAR 2010
 A CLASS AAAAA ALL-STATE FIRST-TEAM SELECTION IN 2010. BLAYLOCK IS COMMITTED TO KENTUCKY.

DENARD FORD MCEACHERN
DEFENSIVE BACK

INT 8
YEAR 2010
 A CLASS AAAAA ALL-STATE FIRST-TEAM SELECTION IN 2010. FORD IS CURRENTLY A DEFENSIVE BACK AT SEWanee.

DARREN WALLER NORTH COBB
DEFENSIVE BACK

TACKLES 67
INT 1
YEAR 2010
 A CLASS AAAAA ALL-STATE SECOND-TEAM SELECTION IN 2010. WALLER IS CURRENTLY A WIDE RECEIVER AND DEFENSIVE BACK AT GEORGIA TECH.

NICHOLAS ST. GERMAIN MCEACHERN
KICKER

FGM/FGA 9-13
PAT/ATT 51-53
POINTS 80
YEAR 2010
 EARNED CLASS AAAAA ALL-STATE FIRST-TEAM SELECTION IN 2010. HE IS CURRENTLY BEING RECRUITED BY GEORGIA TECH, SOUTH CAROLINA, KENTUCKY AND IOWA STATE.

KICK RETURNER

KICKER