

2011 COBB COUNTY SOFTBALL TEAM CAPSULES

Alatona Lady Buccaneers
Coach: Troy Piria, Fourth year
Last year: 23-10 last year, 11-3 in Region 7B-AAA, Region 7AAA runner-up, Class AAA state runner-up
Key returners: OF/BP Trellan Watson (Sr.), SS Kara Chambers (Sr.), C Jessica Finch (Jr.), OF Stephanie Walls (Sr.)
Key losses: 2B Kaitlin Chumley, P Caitlin O'Shea, 1B Megan Nesbitt, CF Lindsey York
Key newcomers: 3B Dani Lewis (So.), 2B Madsyn Escue (Fr.), 3B Casey Lewis (Fr.)
Projected starters: P — Watson; C — Finch; 1B — Brand Blair (Jr.), Pitcher: 2B — Erica Dunbar (So.), Escue; 2B — Beirich (Jr.), D. Lewis, C. Lewis, SS — Chambers, D. Lewis, OF — Walls, Elizabeth Federico (So./Morgan Nesbitt Jr./Chambers)
Outlook: Though Alatonas state title makes it run to the Class AAA state finals last year, the Lady Buccaneers will have many holes to fill defensively this season and will have to find a new starting pitcher with O'Shea's graduation. Tessa Watson, who served Alatonas in multiple roles last season, will be the most likely fill-in for O'Shea.

Hillgrove Lady Hawks
Coach: Jason Campbell, Sixth year
Last year: 22-11, 5-2 Region 4AAAAA champion, Class AAAAA state runner-up
Key returners: P/1B Dresden Maddox (Sr.), P/1B Kayla Caruso (Sr.), P/1B Rachel Gardner (Sr.), 2B Amber Boone (Jr.), LF Katie Giles (Jr.), SS Rachel Farris (So.), 2B Kelle Carroll (So.), OF Amy Koenig (Sr.), OF Jennifer Wood (Sr.), OF Jessie Giles (Jr.), C Marina Michael (So.)
Key losses: 3B Sam Bertzel
Key newcomers: C Courtney Suter (Sr.), IF Morgan Sutter (So.), 3B Sierra Maddox (So.), IF Paige Favor (Jr.)
Projected starters: P — Caruso, Maddox; C — Suter, Michaud; 1B — Gardner; 2B — Carroll, M. Sutter; 3B — Broom, S. Maddox; SS — Farris, Favor; LF — Koenig; CF — Wood, D. Giles; RF — K. Giles
Outlook: Harrison's run to the region championship and its state runner-up finish was fueled by pitchers Maddox and Caruso. With both players returning, the pitching rotation should again be solid and a strength for the Lady Hawks. Harrison loses just one position starter from the lineup in capable hitter Bertzel, but the offseason training and experience from last year's title chase has given Peters a more optimistic about another deep play run. The Lady Hawks have made the playoffs in six of the last seven seasons.

Kennewas Mountain Lady Mustangs
Coach: Lisa Chapman, 12th year
Last year: 22-8, 7-0 Region 5AAAAA runner-up, Class AAAAAA state second round
Key returners: OFP Amanda Hallman (Jr.), C/INF Nelly Umhan (Jr.), 3B/OF Chandler Stockbary (Jr.), C/INF Morgan Howell (Jr.), INF/1B Box (Sr.), INF/OF Malesa Bell (So.), OF Kerri Stred (Jr.)
Key losses: SS Katelyne Williams (Kennewas State), 3B/1B Amber Hamilton, INF/OF Maura Minton, POF James Thomas (Shelton), P Amber Clark
Key newcomers: P Rebecca Farris (Jr.)
Projected starters: P — Farris; C — Howell, Umhan; 1B — TBA; 2B — Bell; 3B — Stockbary; SS — Box; LF — Hallman; CF — Stred; RF — TBA
Outlook: Despite the loss of the left side of the infield and two-year starting pitcher Thomas, Kennewas Mountain returns plenty of weapons with six juniors and one senior to the starting core and should continue to be a force in the region and in the state. Pitching will definitely be a question mark with the departure of Thomas, however, the Lady Mustangs typically relied which probably means a young and inexperienced pitcher like Farris will lead from the mound. While it's not the ideal situation, Chapman should be able to get the best out of her players and have them ready for the postseason.

Lassiter Lady Trojans
Coach: Scott Kelly, 10th year
Last year: 25-14 overall, 7-0 in Region 5AAAAA, lost in the elite eight at Columbus
Key returners: N/A
Key losses: SS Morgan Fife, OF Rachel Olatofada, 3B Katesha Ogletree, 1B Sara Watson
Key newcomers: N/A
Outlook: Lassiter had as many as 13 players who recently returned from their summer travel teams, and the program is currently building their roster. A final roster will likely be decided Friday.
Marietta Lady Blue Devils
Coach: Nancy Donnelly, Fifth year
Last year: 3-18, 7th in Region 5AAAAA
Key returners: CF Carmen Bell (Jr.), 1B Kati Callahan (Sr.), 2B/3B Patricia Franklin (Sr.), 1B/SS Mace Poole (Jr.), P/SS Taylor Hartenbach (So.), C Elizabeth Osburn (So.)
Key losses: 3B Molly Fagan, 1B Victoria Brantford (Benedict), OF Felicia Baker
Key newcomers: 2B/3B Taylor Buttner (Fr.), LF Kayla Cabrera (So.), RF Hannah Dotrin (Jr.)
Projected starters: P — Hartenbach; C — Osburn; 1B — Poole, Callahan; 2B — Franklin, Buttner; 3B — Franklin, Buttner; SS — Hartenbach, Poole; LF — Cabrera; CF — Hill; RF — Dotrin
Outlook: Marietta continues to be a leader in hiring following a disappointing 2010 campaign. Many of the young players in the program are now overclassmen with plenty of game experience under their belts. If the Lady Blue Devils can find the right combination of good pitching and good hitting, then they'll have an opportunity to compete in a tough Region 5AAAAA state. Several starters return, which should bode well for team chemistry. The pitching staff is only back with a year of experience.

McEachern Lady Indians
Coach: Russ Russell, First year
Last year: 25-15, 6th in Region 4AAAA
Key returners: OF/1B Kimberly Taylor (Jr.), 3B Kaitlin Lee (Jr.), 2B/3B Brenda Luke (Sr.), P/OF Rachel Abernathy (Sr.), OF Colena Biot (Sr.)
Key losses: SS Lauren Coleman (Georgia State), 2B Emily Benton (Bryan), C Austyn Wit, OF Kayla Smith, OF Krystal Roke, DH Ebony Rodgers, OF Maddie Medford
Key newcomers: P/1B Lakeny Priest (Jr.), PF Abigail Cherry (Fr.), SS Khrisna Green (Fr.)
Projected starters: P — Abernathy; C — Cherry; 1B — Priest; 2B — Luke; 3B — Leng; SS — Green; LF — Biot; Taylor; RF — TBD
Outlook: McEachern graduated seven seniors and lost some considerable talent and leadership from its 2010 squad. After winning 13 games two years ago, the Lady Indians collected only five in 2010, and several holes to fill this season. Things could get better or worse for McEachern as it tries to make it back to the postseason for the first time since 2006. Contributions will have to come from everyone, including the key newcomers, for the Lady Indians to compete in a tough Region 4AAAA.

Mount Paran Christian Lady Eagles
Coach: Caroline Jonas Bradford, Fourth year
Last year: 8-8 last year, 6-3 in Region 6A (A), lost in first round of Class A
Key returners: 3B/C Caroline Reiley (So.), SSC Emily Cameron (Sr.), P Shannon McGeary (Jr.)
Key losses: SS Erin Sparks, 3B Brianna Tawadros, 1B Brittany Kelley, OF Andrea Austin, LF Mica Thurnan
Key newcomers: 1B/EP Emily Hannell (Fr.), C Courtney McKenzie (Fr.)
Projected starters: P — McGeary; C — McKenzie; 1B — McGeary, Hannell; 2B — Sarah Kelly (Jr.); 3B — Reiley; SS — Cameron; LF — McKenzie Robinson (Jr.); CF — Sarah Ann Roginsky (Jr.); RF — Shelby Thurman (Jr.)
Outlook: With only 10 girls on the team's roster, Mount Paran will have to utilize players at multiple positions this season after losing six seniors. The Lady Eagles narrowly missed reaching the state playoffs last season after finishing 9th and the Region 6A (A) standings. In order to get back to that position and possibly even reach the state playoffs, the Eagles will need to rely on a fresh crop of players in including freshman starters Hannell and McKenzie.

North Cobb Lady Warriors
Coach: Jo Beth Weaver, 17th year
Last year: 14-16, 5th in Region 4AAAA
Key returners: P/INF Alle Coronado (Sr.), CF Rachel Barone (Jr.), C/1B Megan Anderson (Jr.), OF Alle Troutman (Jr.), P/OF Kelly Lawrence (Sr.), 3B/2B Heather Vazquez (Sr.), SSC Encka Clifford (So.), OF Joy Lowery (So.), P/OF Kristen Lee (Jr.), P/OF Morgan Johnson (Sr.)
Key losses: 1B Ashley Fritts (South Georgia), P Morgan Anderson (Trent/McConell)

Key newcomers: OF Casey Page (Fr.), 3B/2B Bryanna Vazquez (Fr.), P/1B Katy Barritt (Fr.), OF Kaitlyn Trent (So.), PISS Olivia Wood (Jr.), C/1B Katy Trumbull (Fr.)
Projected starters: P — Barritt, Lawrence, Coronado; C — Anderson, Trumbull; 1B — Coronado, Anderson; 2B — B. Vazquez, H. Vazquez; 3B — H. Vazquez, B. Vazquez; SS — Clifford; LF — Lowery, Troutman; CF — Barone; RF — Page
Outlook: North Cobb narrowly missed the postseason for the second straight season with another fifth-place finish in the region standings. After three straight appearances from 2008-09 and six showings in the last nine years, the Lady Warriors should have the tools in place to get back this season. Nearly the entire roster returns, and those players gained valuable experience a year ago which should help lead the charge. The cupboard is never really bare at North Cobb, it is just usually restocked, but retooling isn't an issue this season.

North Cobb Christian Lady Eagles
Coach: Josh Speck
Last year: 11-16 last year, 5-9 in Region 6A (A), lost in first round of Class A
Key returners: P Madison Luck (Jr.), P/1B Stephanie Berry (Sr.), SS Emily Jones (Sr.), OF Michele Nesbitt (Sr.)
Key losses: Sofi Turner, Ashley Godfrey, Victoria Holland
Outlook: Last season, North Cobb Christian completed the state playoffs for the second time in three seasons as the No. 3 seed from Region 6A (A). In order to return to prominence this season, the Eagles will need top pitchers Luck and Berry to put together similarly productive seasons.

Osborne Lady Cardinals
Interim coach: Melane Shepherd, First year
Last year: 5-12
Key returners: P/COF Lauren Smith (Sr.), SS Malia Maye (Jr.), COF Tamu Maxwell (Jr.), 1B Jasmine Harris (Sr.)
Key losses: OF/2B Megan Keith, OF Maria Viliakos
Key newcomers: None
Projected starters: TBD
Outlook: Osborne enters the season with a solid veteran lineup as it returns most of its roster from last year. The Lady Cardinals miss at least a year of experience in their lineup with four seniors and five juniors. While the Lady Cardinals are strong defensively, they lack depth on the mound. Osborne will have to compete in a very challenging subgroup in Region 6AAAA that includes county rivals and state powerhouse Kent and Pope.

Pebblebrook Lady Falcons
Coach: Bill Jamel, Second year
Last year: 0-15
Key returners: P Lauren Seagassie (Sr.), 1B Sasha Anderson (Sr.), 2B Kenia Welch (Jr.), SS/OF Malia Woods (So.), OF Maya Poole (Sr.)
Key losses: BG Majors
Key newcomers: IF Brittany Alford (Sr.)
Projected starters: P — Seagassie; C — TBD; 1B — Anderson; 2B — Welch; 3B — McCauley; SS — Woods; LF — Moore; CF — Poole; RF — Alford
Outlook: Pebblebrook looks to bounce back from last year's disappointing 0-15 season. The Lady Falcons lose leading hitter Majors, but returning the rest of last year's lineup, Alford returns to the lineup after being last year's OF and will provide veteran leadership along with Seagassie and Woods. The Lady Falcons will also be boosted by the arrival of a group of promising freshmen that gives the team some hope for the future. Pebblebrook will certainly have its work cut out for it on the Lady Falcons compete in a Region 4AAAAA that features such powerhouses as Harrison, Kennewas Mountain and Hillgrove.

Pope Lady Greyhounds
Coach: Chris Turo, Second year
Last year: 19-13 overall, 10-2 in Region 5AAAA, lost to Creekview in first round of state playoffs
Key returners: P Marisa Boyette (Sr.), OF Rachel Dennis (Sr.), SS Kendall Hahn (So.), OF Lizzy Hall (Sr.), OF Alexis Trisley (Sr.), INF/C Laura Beal (Jr.), INF Laura Miller (Jr.), INF Jenna Reilly (Jr.), INF/OF Ellie Vland (So.)
Key losses: OFP Christy Flick (LaGrange), OF Natalie Lambert (Georgia College and State), C Kristen Lowry (Phonics), 1B Alex Putnam
Key newcomers: OF/IF Sydney Seaman, P Lindsey Waton, NF Alana Trisley, INF/OF Hannah Lurmp
Projected starters: P — Boyette; C — Beal; 1B — Miller; 2B — Lurmp; Vland; 3B — Reilly; SS — Hahn; OF — Trisley, Hunt, Seigers; OF — Dennis; OF — Lurmp, Vland
Outlook: Pope is returning the majority of its infield that led the Lady Greyhounds to the state tournament last season in its first year of Class AAAAA. They will also have their top pitcher from last season in Boyette. Pope will have to compensate for losing four strong hitters from last season and will have to rely on incoming pitchers to fill the void.

South Cobb Lady Eagles
Coach: Mark Collins, Second year
Last year: 15-15, lost in first round of Class AAAAA state tournament
Key returners: OF Breanna Hubbard (Sr.), CF Brooke Rivers (Sr.), P/1B Brittany Rhoads (So.), 2B Courtney Poehlitz (Sr.), C/3B Jahshna White (Sr.), LF Stephanie Cartmel, P/1B Keauana Cymes (Jr.)
Key losses: Chelsea Hicks, Brelin Ryeer, AJ McCoy
Key newcomers: C/3B Becky Collins (Fr.), SSP Asia Moore (Fr.), RF Alyah LeBouf (Fr.), 1B Ariel LeBouf (Jr.)
Projected starters: P — Rhoads; C — Collins; 1B — Ar. LeBouf, Cymes; 2B — Poehlitz; 3B — White; SS — Moore; LF — Cartmel, Cymes; CF — Rivers; RF — Hubbard, A. LeBouf
Outlook: It was a breakthrough season for South Cobb, which qualified for the state tournament for the first time in several years. It will be a challenge for the Lady Eagles to duplicate their success of a year ago, however, as they come into the season with a much younger lineup with losing several key players from last year's squad. Experience and depth will be the main issues for South Cobb, which features only 11 players on its roster and only two seniors. While the Lady Eagles certainly have a lot of holes to fill, Collins is confident that his young squad will be competitive this season.

Spraberry Lady Yellow Jackets
Coach: Donny Robertson, Second year
Last year: 4-18 overall, 4-8 in Region 5AAAA
Key returners: 3B/OF Malena Restrepo (Sr.), OF Kristian Loftsoo (Sr.), 1B Winter Scott (Jr.), COF Alyson Rayer (Sr.), C/3B Nicole Jenette Rader (Jr.)
Key losses: Shelby Huey
Key newcomers: 2B Kayleigh Breh, 3B Caroline Curtis, SS Katie Tokos, OF Julia Abney
Projected starters: C — Jenette; P — Huey; 1B — Scott; 2B — Breh; SS — Tokos; 3B — Curtis; Restrepo; OF — Rayer; OF — Loftsoo; Abney; Restrepo
Outlook: Consistency in pitching should help Spraberry surpass a four-win season a year ago. Huey is capable of changing speeds and throwing balls on balance. Experience with eight returning players should also help the Lady Yellow Jackets also do to the best of their ability to play solid defense. Their biggest test will be in getting the timely hits and putting balls in play.

Walker Lady Wolverines
Coach: Anna Hahnen-Kennedy, Fourth year
Last year: 3-19 last year, 0-7 in Region 6A (B)
Key returners: SS Rebecca Hampton (Jr.), C Sarah Syrop (Jr.), 3B Johanna Collins (Jr.), 1B Summer Duanev (Sr.), 1B/OF Molly Hane (Sr.)
Key losses: OF Savannah Boylan, OF Al Bobo
Key newcomers: OF Kaysi Scott (Jr.), P Rae Syrop (Fr.), C Caitlin Seger (Fr.), 2B Honor Stoner (Sr.)
Projected starters: P — R. Syrop; C — B. Syrop; 1B — Duanev; 2B — Stoner; 3B — Ortz; SS — Hampton; LF — Harde; OF — Hane; Syrop — Vickie Hudson (So.)
Outlook: After finishing last season, Walker loses little from last year's team. With seniors Ortiz and Duanev keying the Lady Wolverines' offense, the team's hitting figures to improve. Defensively, the group as a whole is experienced, as there will be just three new starters in the lineup. However, the team's pitching will be a question mark, as the team will start freshman Rae Syrop, who has just two months of training over the summer with the team under her belt.

Walton Lady Raiders
Coach: Stewart Thomas, First year
Last year: 17-13 overall, 5-2 in Region 5AAAAA, to Mill Creek in first round of state
Key returners: P Laura Thompson (Sr.), IF Aislynn McMahan (Sr.), OF Kelly Caulett (So.), IF Kelly Daniel (So.), DS Jacqueline Diftelano (Sr.), S Emily Kenyon (Jr.), MF Tiana Joseph (Sr.)
Key losses: 3B Hannah Craig, 1B Kelle Hastings, 2B Kelsey Hastings, OF Delaney Cameron
Key newcomers: IF Claudette Jones (Sr.), IF/OF Emily Andriano (So.), OF Caroline Jenkins (Jr.)
Projected starters: TBA
Outlook: Pitching continues to be a strength for the Lady Raiders as they battle for a SAAAAA title after coming up short against Cherokee in the tournament finale. Walton will have to account for several key losses, which includes three insiders, which means newcomers will have to grow up fast. Walton will also have its best head coach in three years.

Whelan Lady Wildcats
Coach: Vicki Massey, First year
Last year: 9-11 overall, 2-4 in Region 5AAAAA
Key returners: P Beba Williams (Jr.), 2B Sydney Ray (Jr.), COF Kaitlyn Arnett (Jr.), 1B Paige Jordan (So.), P/OF Trella Ramakrishnan (So.)
Key losses: OF Morgan Love, C Kerina Betts, OF Ebony James, 3B Kelle Lynch
Key newcomers: P Anns Aesell (Fr.)
Projected starters: P — Aesell; C — Arnett; 1B — Jordan; SS — Williams; 2B — Ray; 3B — Marianne Danerman; OF — Ramakrishnan; OF — Victoria Sweetser; OF — Nedra Lindsey
Outlook: Whelan took a massive step forward last season. Nearly pulling off a 300 season after seriously struggling in previous seasons. The Lady Wildcats graduated a few players that helped make that happen, but their pitching seems intact and should have capable bodies that will fill the missing positions.

Whitefield Academy Lady Wolfpack
Coach: Catelyn Watkins, Second year
Last year: 11-10
Key returners: 3B Morgan Wilmer (Sr.), 2B Shelby Davidson (Sr.), 3B, SS — Wilmer; SS — Brown; LF — Brown; OF — Jones; RF — Jennie Chambliss
Outlook: Whitefield Academy returns most of the players from last year's team that produced a winning season. The Lady Wolfpack will be led by a strong senior class that includes Wilmer, Davidson, Hampel and Perkins, with Jones, Hampel and Davidson giving them plenty of punch at the plate. Whitefield appears to have all the ingredients available to make a serious run at the Region 5A championship.