

More confident Bears aim for breakout campaign

By WILL HAMMOCK
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The talent, and the expectations, are rising for the Mountain View football program.

Though they are coming off a 3-7 season, the Bears' returning players and new head coach Nick Bach bring in confidence built

MORE INSIDE
Gwinnett County's 2016 football verbal commits, 2B

up by their improvements in recent seasons. The 3-7 mark wasn't eye-catching, but it could have been much prettier last year for a program whose varsity team hasn't won more than three games since winning

four in 2009, its inaugural season of split varsity and junior varsity games.

Mountain View lost 29-26 to Kennesaw Mountain in a game the players and coaches felt like they should have won, then it lost 19-7 to Norcross and only 16-12 to Collins Hill. Flip a couple of those

See **BEARS**, Page 4B



Mountain View's Alex Scott (4) carries for extra yards during the second half of last year's game at Parkview. (Photo: Kyle Hess)

Glads get Fiddler, Barteaux signed

By CHRISTINE TROYKE
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DULUTH — The Gwinnett Gladiators acquired forward Todd Fiddler and defenseman Ian Barteaux as future considerations in a handful of deals made at the trade deadline.

They signed both and announced the additions Tuesday.

Fiddler was part of the package Ontario sent to Gwinnett in exchange for highly productive forward Garry Nunn. Fiddler, who just turned 22 last week, spent most of the 2014-15 season with Quad City before being traded to the Reign in early March.

Gladiators head coach Andy Brandt was excited about Fiddler's ability to put the puck away when given the chance.

"He was excited about getting an opportunity to come play in Gwinnett," Brandt said. "It's a fresh start. With the depth in Ontario, there was not much playoff time for him."

"His last year in major junior he scored nearly 50 goals. So obviously he's a scorer. For us, it's just about trying to get him into a spot here where he can succeed the most, finding who he gels with and who can set him up."

Fiddler's numbers from his final season in major junior with Prince George in the WHL certainly bear that out. The Saskatchewan native had a whopping 88 points, including 48 goals, in just 52 games with the Cougars during 2013-14. Those numbers are in addition to 10 points in 14 games with Moose Jaw that season.

Fiddler also racked up 77 points in 70 games with the Spokane Chiefs in 2012-13.

He played eight games in the ECHL with Colorado after his junior career wrapped up and then signed with Quad City as a rookie. Fiddler had 27 points in 50 games with the Mallards before being sent to Ontario.

"In training camp, we want to find a guy down the middle to get him the puck on the outside," Brandt said. "We don't want him in a role with two other shooters. It's up to us as a staff to put him in a place to succeed."

Barteaux is the player

See **SIGNED**, Page 6B

BELIEF'S BEST



Darius Joell (71), a Collins Hill grad, goes for a basket against Tyler Deihl (89) during Monday's Team Belief college final at Suwanee Sports Academy. (Photo: Kyle Hess)

Local college, pro league crowns champions

By KAITLIN LONG
Staff correspondent

A newly formed team won the college league championship late Monday night in the The Team Belief Summer League championship games at the Suwanee Sports Academy.

The college league title went to Team Shaw with a 105-97

victory, while the pro league title game was much closer in the annual competitions, founded by Berkmar grad David Akin. Team Puckett, headed up by Dacula grad B.J. Puckett, won the pro division 66-60.

Trevon Shaw, a product of Mill Creek and a junior at Lincoln Memorial University, came up with the idea to participate in

this summer league, and the rest of his teammates agreed to do something special as a group. That plan also brought a championship for the team headed up by Shaw.

"It feels good," Shaw said. "All these great players, we're grateful to be out here competing."

The league provided outstanding levels of competition

throughout the season, according to the participants, so it was an accomplishment for the new team to win it all. The best part for Mill Creek grad Paul Evans, who is a junior at the University of Virginia-Wise, and those who participated in the league was the chance to compete against

See **BELIEF**, Page 4B

MORE ONLINE: Go to www.gwinnettdaily.com for more images from this event.

Duncan Creek's Shaw wins national title

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The trip was neat in itself, but Olivia Shaw also returned as a national champion.

Shaw, a rising fifth-grader at Duncan Creek Elementary, won the 9- and 10-year-old girls division of the Major League Baseball Pitch, Hit and Run competition, which was held at Cincinnati's Great American Ball Park as part of the MLB All-Star festivities.

The 10-year-old was the only champion from Georgia and was one of two champions representing the Atlanta Braves — the other was 13- and 14-year-old girls champion Madison Hayes of Ooltewah, Tenn.

Shaw went straight to Cincinnati from Panama City, Fla., where she was playing in a World

Series with her travel softball team, the Dirt Dawgs. Part of the trip included spending time on the field with all-stars and shagging fly balls during the MLB Home Run Derby.

The MLB Pitch, Hit and Run qualifying process began with roughly 625,000 participants in 4,400 local qualifiers across the country. After winning her local qualifier, Shaw also advanced from the sectional qualifier (at Coolray Field) and team qualifier (at Turner Field). She made nationals as one of the top three scorers in the U.S. in her age group based on her showing at the team event.

Shaw also has experienced success with NFL Punt, Pass and Kick competitions, advancing to the Atlanta Falcons event at the Georgia Dome last year.



Olivia Shaw, 10, poses for a portrait at the Bogan Park softball fields in Buford on Friday, July 3. The fifth-grader at Duncan Creek Elementary won the national title at the Major League Baseball Pitch, Hit and Run competition at the MLB All-Star Game in Cincinnati. (Staff Photo: David Welker)

GDP sports staff wins 14 awards

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Gwinnett Daily Post won 14 awards, including four first-place finishes, in the Division II category in voting conducted by the Georgia Sports Writers Association for its best of 2014.

The awards were presented Sunday at the organization's annual convention, hosted this year in Norcross.

The Daily Post finished second statewide for best sports section, best Sunday sports section and best special section — for its annual high

See **AWARDS**, Page 6B