



Sports



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Two a days: A look at spring

By Corey Davis
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A new coach, players transferring and players quitting football are some of the headlines teams are faced with in spring football practice. Below is a synopsis of what teams are losing, returning and facing in the spring.

Branford

Coach: Jason Boyd (first year)

2010 Record: (7-4)

Key losses: KC Prevatt (QB/RB), Kyle Certain (QB/RB/LB), Danny Johnston (LB), David Bass (WB/DB), Josh Kirby (TE/DB), Matt Dickerson (OL/LB), Matt Thody (HB/LB), Max Lambert (OL/LB), Kyle Stebbins (RB/DB, So.)

Key returners: Cole Lamb (RB/DB, So.), CJ Bradlow (TE/DB, Sr.), Robert Morris (SE/DB, Jr.), Kyle McGee (OL/DL, Sr.), Patrick Thody (TE/DL, Jr.)

Outlook: New coach Jason Boyd comes over from Moore Haven and entered spring practice trying to get his kids familiar with the new multiple formation spread offense. Assistant coach David Akers returns on the staff and is assisted by newcomer Matt Bell, from LaBelle. Boyd said he hopes the kids continue to work hard learning the new offense and continue to build the program. Boyd will miss one of his starters on offense, as Stebbins left before practice began and transferred to Suwannee.

Spring game: Bell (May 27)

Hamilton County

Coach: Mike Pittman

2010 Record: (7-4)

Key losses: Antonio Turner (RB/DE), Anthony Ingram (WR/DB), Deonte Simmons (QB), Gerald Bristol (WR/DB), LA Willis (WR/DB), Cortez Williams (WR/DB), Bo Merine (RB/LB), Daniel Harris (FB/DL), Shane Hotchkiss (DE/LB), Paul Umstead (TE/DL)

Key returners: Destin Walker (OL/DL, Sr.), Rick Hodson (OL/DL, Sr.), Marcus Weary (OL/DL, Sr.), Will Hill (ATH, Sr.), Char Merine (WR/LB, So.), Trey Norris (WR/DB, So.), Damon Bryant (OL/DL, Sr.)

Outlook: Coming off their most successful season since 1999, the Trojans might be in a rebuilding phase again. The good news is Pittman returns several key linemen on both sides of the ball, the bad news is he is having to replace every skill position starter but one Will Hill. The 20 days of spring will all be about filling holes and finding skill players.

Spring game: at Tallahassee Maclay (May 20)

Lafayette

Coach: Joey Pearson

2010 Record: (10-2)

Key losses: Antwan Brown (ATH), Andre Hall (WR/DB), Jose Rubio (S), David Carson (OL), Corey Sanchez (DL), Chris Sparks (TE/LB), Josh Lira (NG), Dutin Reinbott (LB), Dylan Harrelson (WR/DB), Tyler Clancy (DB), Uriel Posada (LB)

Key returners: Mel Jones (OL/DL, Sr.), Rodney Brown (ATH, Jr.), JR Bass (ATH, Jr.), Treston Whidden (FB/LB, Sr.), Garrett Dubose (QB, Sr.), Tyler Brown (OL/DL, Sr.), Dylan Green (LB, Jr.), Chase Hart (OL/DL, Jr.), Leo Rosalio (OL/DL, Jr.), Chris Allen (LB, Sr.), Joan Pedro Negrete (K, So.)

Outlook: Of the four area teams, Lafayette is the team with less questions to ask in the spring. Replacing Antwan Brown and Andre Hall are the two priorities in spring, which should lie in the hands of Bass, Rodney Brown and Whidden. Dubose takes over at quarterback after missing most of the season with a broken hand, while Rodney Brown, last years starting quarterback, moves to the wideout position. With Bass, Brown, Dubose and Whidden and a solid offensive line still in tact, the Hornets wont miss a beat on offense. Filling holes on defense is another priority for Pearson in the spring as well.

Spring game: at Dixie County (May 27)

Suwannee

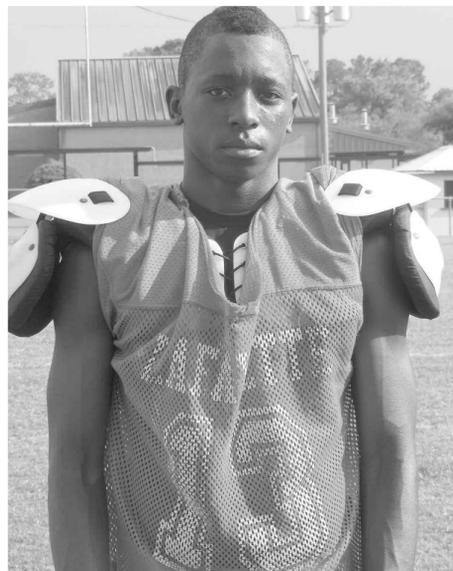
Coach: Willie Spears (second year)

2010 Record: (4-6)

Key losses: Greg Swinson (RB/LB), Jackson Brown (QB/DB), Jimmie Taylor (QB/DB, Jr.), Andre Zanders (WR), Alex Falleck (OL/DL), Tre Robinson (DL), Marvin Orange (OL/DL), Josh Randolph (TE/DE), Derek Smith (WR/LB), Bubba Bonds (OL/DL)

Key returners: Marcus Lane (ATH, Sr.), John Pournelle (WR, Sr.), Tyler Jernigan (OL/DL, Jr.), Dustin Musgrove (OL/DL, Sr.), Alex Robinson (FB/LB, Sr.)

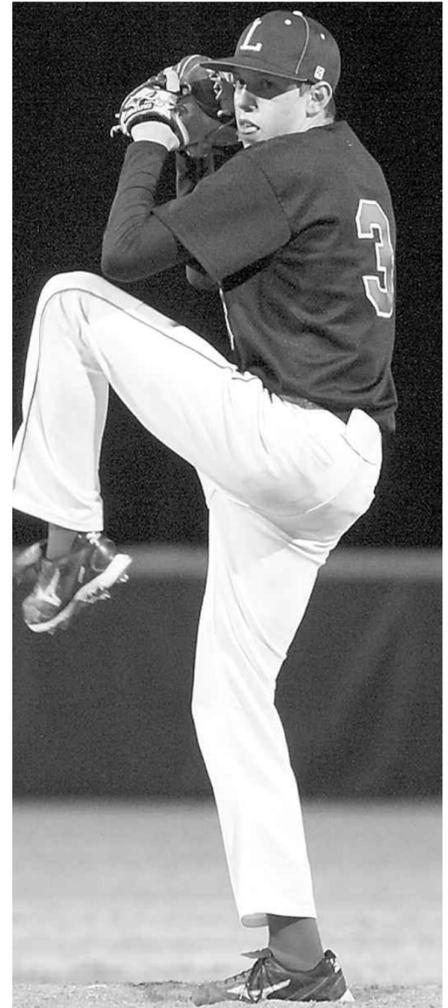
Outlook: As if replacing starting quarterback Jackson Brown wasn't hard enough, Spears was dealt a big blow when backup and part time starter Jimmie Taylor decided to give up football to con-



Rodney Brown is expected to be one of the playmakers for the Hornets this season. - Photos: Corey Davis

centrate on basketball full time. Josh Wright, who started at tight end last fall, is the likely candidate to take over the quarterback position. Finding people to replace nearly all of skill players on offense is a top priority for Spears in the spring. Kyle Stebbins, a transfer from Branford, could be an answer on both sides of the ball. Spears was dealt another blow when Marcus Lane went down with a ACL injury recently and will miss the rest of spring practice and possibly all of summer and fall workouts.

Spring game: at Taylor County (May 27)



Wayne Atwell was selected to the Next Level Future's All-Star game this weekend. Atwell will be teammates with players from Suwannee, Columbia and Fort White.

Atwell an All-Star

By Corey Davis

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TALLAHASSEE-Lafayette senior pitcher Wayne Atwell was one of 32 players selected to play in the inaugural Next Level Future's All-Star baseball game this weekend at Tallahassee Community College.

The weekend begins Friday at 7 p.m. with a banquet at the Next Level baseball facility, which will feature guest speakers former MLB player Dean Palmer and NFL player Corey Simon.

Players will be recognized and given something for playing in the game as well as awards given out by Next Level for the Player of the Year, Offensive Player of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year and Coaches of the Year.

The Small Town team will be coached by Suwannee coach Ronnie Gray and be assisted by Hal Dixon (Holmes County), Phillip Hurst (Suwannee) and Matt Tate (Holmes County).

Atwell will play on the Small Town team, which will feature players from Suwannee, Taylor County, Baker County, Keystone Heights, Columbia, Fort White, Marianna and Port St Joe.

The Big Town team, will be coached by Mike Posey (NFC) and assistants coaches from Lincoln and Florida High.

Players from Lincoln, Leon, Godby, Rickards, NFC, Maclay, Florida High, Chiles and FAMU will compete for the Big Town team.

After a 11 a.m. workout with the Next Level staff, the 14-inning game will begin at 1 p.m. Several college and professional scouts will be on hand to watch the workout and game, especially with potential first round pick Roman Quinn (FSU signee) on the roster.

Each player will wear there high school jersey during the game and wear a specially designed game hat for their team. Each team will carry seven pitchers and each will be guaranteed a maximum of two innings of work.



Lafayette is finishing up its spring practice before wrapping it up with its spring game at Dixie County.