

DIAMOND DOGS STRUGGLE TO A 24-30 MARK, BUT STOWERS MAKES FIRST TEAM ALL-SEC

In the Hollywood movie *Groundhog Day*, Bill Murray plays a weatherman who gets a chance to relive the same day numerous times until he gets everything right, and ultimately there is a happy ending.

For the Bulldogs, the 1996 season was filled with games that were strangely familiar, but there was no happy ending. As the credits roll in this feature, a sad song starts to play, 16-year coach Steve Webber rides away. He announced his resignation the day after the season ended.

In 1996, the Bulldogs posted a 24-30 mark. They missed out on the postseason for the first time since 1991, failing to qualify for the Southeastern Conference (SEC) Tournament, which included just the top eight teams. Georgia's last NCAA regional appearance came in 1992, and since then, it owns a record of 105-127.

Webber, the all-time winningest coach in Georgia baseball history, recorded his 500th victory in the Bulldogs' next to last game in 1996. He became only the seventh coach in SEC history to reach that milestone. Webber concluded his tenure with a record of 500-403-1, highlighted by two College World Series appearances and the 1990 national championship.

"I've enjoyed my association with Coach Dooley, the athletic association and the University," said Webber. "But it's time for a change for me and my family as well as for the program. I love the University and am very appreciative of the many players, coaches, trainers, and managers with whom I've had the opportunity to work. While the last four years have been difficult, I look back over the past 16 years and know that we accomplished the things we wanted to when we arrived in 1981."

The reoccurring nightmare of one-run losses haunted the Bulldogs in 1996. Georgia annually plays one of the nation's toughest schedules, and it made these heartbreaks all the more painful. Georgia was close in countless games and even won a few, but eventually, the losses mounted and the hopes for a turnaround never materialized.

Georgia played 18 one-run contests, going 6-12 overall including just 2-8 in SEC games. The Bulldogs came up short in extra-inning affairs too with a 1-6 mark. Georgia had 26 games against opponents ranked in the Top 25 and while they were 9-17 in these games, they were 1-9 in one-run games versus the nation's best. Georgia faced half of this year's College World Series field (Alabama, Clemson, Florida and LSU). They were 3-8 against them, but the LSU series was the only one that Georgia didn't have opportunities to win.

The 1996 season lacked a Hollywood ending, but Georgia senior and four-year starter **Chris STOWERS** (above center)

easily would have been cast as the leading man in this drama. A first team All-SEC selection, the centerfielder put together his finest collegiate season. He was the only player in the league to hit .400 in SEC games (.407), and he led the Bulldogs in almost every offensive category, including hitting .370 with 12 home runs, 57 RBI and 24 stolen bases. He finished among the Bulldog career leaders in several categories including second in RBI with 159. Fellow senior and four-year starter **Pete ARENAS** (.322-3-32) left his mark too. Arenas, who played in 226 games in his Bulldog career, ended up third in At-Bats with 879, which ranks seventh in SEC history.

The Bulldogs had another dynamic duo handle most of the pitching chores.

Sophomore **Josh GANDY** (5-7, 4.70 ERA) and freshman **Zack FRACHISEUR** (6-5, 3.82 ERA) ranked two and three in the SEC in innings pitched (IP) during the regular season with 113 and 107.1 IP. Combined, the duo pitched 46 percent of Georgia's innings in 1996. Their IP/Season ranks ninth and tenth in Georgia history, which is noteworthy considering the other pitchers saw postseason action.

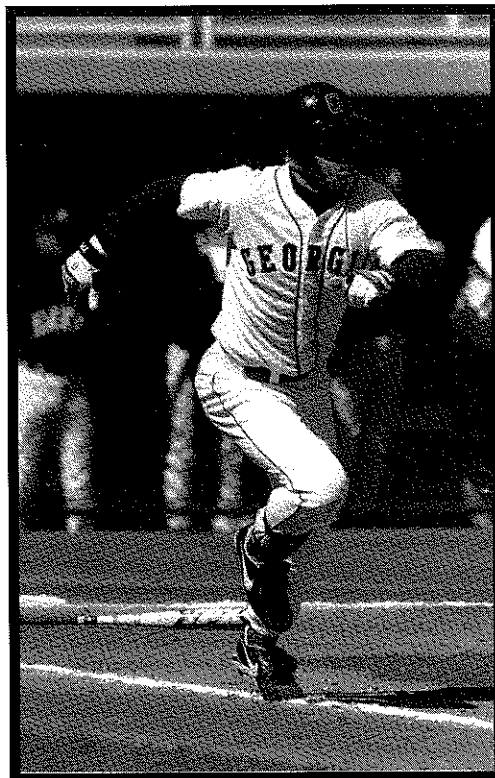
Frachiseur posted four wins over Top 25 teams, and he led the Bulldogs in ERA and lowest opponents batting average (.227). Gandy's highlights included complete game wins over CWS participants Clemson and Alabama. Freshman **Matt HANSON** (3-1, 4.66) emerged late in the year including going 2-0 with a team-best 3.77 ERA in SEC games.

In the pitching department, another hurler who was often overlooked but as reliable as the forementioned Bulldogs was senior **Bruce LINK** (7-6, 5.24). He pitched in a team-high 30 games and

started twice. Link actually led the team with seven wins and was third with 92.2 IP. The Bulldog charged with being on the receiving end of the pitchers was junior **Chip WADE** who caught 98 percent of the innings this season or 470.2 out of a possible 480.2 IP.

Along with Frachiseur and Hanson, young Bulldogs who look to make an impact next season include outfielder **Chris CRAWFORD** and infielder **Shane HOPPER**. In his first season, Crawford played in 50 games including 48 starts. He batted .292 in SEC games and finished the year with five home runs and 33 RBI, which ranked third on the team. Hopper, a sophomore who appeared in 49 games with 46 starts, put together a career-best 16-game hitting streak at the end of the season. He raised his batting average to .285 and hit even better in SEC games, batting .302 which leads all returnees.

Next season, Bulldog baseball begins another chapter in its storied history. A new coach will be at the helm of the oldest collegiate sport on campus. The script for 1997 remains untitled.



1996 FINAL STATS



FINAL RECORD: 24-30 (8-21 SEC)

Home Record: 16-13

Away Record: 8-17

HITTING TOTALS

PLAYER	AVG.	G/GS	AB	R	H	RBI	2B	3B	HR	SB/SBA	BB	SO	HP	S/SF	TB/SLG%	OB%	FLDG			
																	PO	A	E	PCT
Chris Stowers	.370	54/54	216	49	80	57	18	3	12	24/27	29	33	1	2/3	140/.648	.442	139	4	4	.973
Pete Arenas	.322	52/52	202	42	65	32	12	3	3	2/6	37	37	0	2/3	92/.455	.421	71	167	12	.952
Shane Hopper	.285	49/46	186	22	53	28	10	0	2	16/19	17	51	2	2/0	69/.371	.351	199	34	11	.955
Brian Bobier	.272	47/40	158	33	43	17	7	2	4	4/5	21	49	1	2/0	66/.418	.361	254	18	6	.978
Chris Crawford	.267	50/48	195	33	52	33	10	1	5	0/2	20	57	2	1/2	79/.405	.338	98	1	7	.934
Shane Pangle	.264	31/24	87	18	23	10	8	0	1	0/1	12	30	2	0/1	34/.391	.363	48	1	2	.961
Joey Cranford	.241	54/54	216	39	52	36	8	1	7	7/7	26	42	2	3/0	83/.384	.328	65	154	14	.940
Erik Robinson	.238	49/43	168	28	40	21	6	0	1	14/22	35	42	2	1/1	49/.292	.374	48	5	3	.946
Tommy Carter	.235	9/4	17	5	4	5	1	0	1	0/0	1	10	0	1/0	8/.471	.278	7	2	1	.900
Billy Gasparino	.223	51/50	202	29	45	26	15	0	4	12/17	12	44	10	3/2	72/.356	.296	62	123	14	.930
Chip Wade	.193	54/54	181	24	35	24	8	0	4	1/1	17	61	2	7/1	55/.304	.269	336	47	9	.977
Matt Hanson	.182	29/13	44	8	8	7	1	0	1	0/0	6	10	1	0/0	12/.273	.294	81	12	0	1.000
Brian Todd	.133	8/4	15	1	2	1	0	0	0	0/0	1	2	1	0/0	2/.133	.235	1	0	0	1.000
Bob Bethel	.100	7/2	10	0	1	0	0	0	0	0/0	0	4	0	1/0	1/.100	.100	0	4	1	.800
Ben Glusenkamp	.000	4/0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0/0	0	4	0	0/0	0/.000	.000	4	0	0	1.000
GEORGIA	.265	54/54	1901	331	503	297	104	10	4580/107	234	476	26	26/13	762/.401	.351	1442	658	94	.957	
OPPONENT	.287	54/54	1901	345	545	308	108	11	6865/92	230	348	30	32/24	879/.462	.368	1442	623	93	.957	

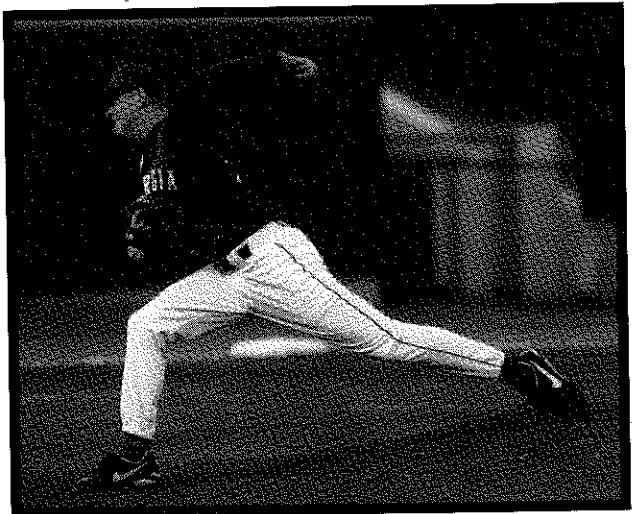
PITCHING TOTALS

PLAYER	ERA	G/GS	W	L	SV	CG	SH	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HB	WP	BK	2B	3B	HR	BF/BAVG.	FLDG			
																					PO	A	E	PCT
Zack Frachiseur [R]	3.82	18/16	6	5	0	5	1	113.0	96	62	48	68	81	5	8	1	20	5	9	501/.227	7	18	2	.926
Matt Hanson [R]	4.66	15/2	3	1	1	0	0	46.1	57	29	24	8	30	2	2	1	16	0	8	204/.302	81	12	0	1.000
Josh Gandy [L]	4.70	16/16	5	7	0	6	0	107.1	106	65	56	48	79	10	5	1	17	2	14	481/.257	13	28	3	.932
Bruce Link [R]	5.24	30/2	7	6	3	1	0	92.2	110	58	54	23	67	1	6	1	24	0	15	400/.304	5	23	1	.966
Doug Bridges [L]	5.91	10/7	2	5	0	1	0	45.2	56	39	30	23	32	3	1	2	9	1	6	216/.303	3	6	0	1.000
Mark Watson [L]	8.43	18/9	1	4	0	0	0	52.1	80	59	49	33	40	5	3	0	10	3	8	276/.352	0	11	2	.846
Josh Salmon [L]	9.00	12/2	0	1	0	0	0	14.0	27	17	14	9	11	3	3	0	9	0	4	79/.415	1	0	1	.500
Jarrett Bridges [L]	11.25	3/0	0	0	0	0	0	4.0	5	6	5	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	20/.294	0	0	0	.000
Keith Brownlee [R]	11.57	4/0	0	0	0	0	0	2.1	4	3	3	6	2	1	4	0	0	0	1	18/.400	1	0	1	.000
Chris Crawford [R]	20.25	2/0	0	1	0	0	0	2.2	3	6	6	7	3	0	0	0	2	0	1	18/.273	98	1	7	.934
Chris Hall [R]	27.00	2/0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	2	1	1	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	5/.667	0	0	0	.000
GEORGIA	5.43	54/54	24	30	4	14	1	1480.2	545	345	290	230	348	30	33	6	108	11	68	2218/.287	SEE ABOVE			
OPPONENT	4.85	54/54	30	24	5	2	1	1480.2	503	331	259	234	476	26	54	5	104	10	45	2200/.265	TOTALS			

DOUBLE PLAYS: Georgia 52, Opponents 39 **LOB:** Georgia 427, Opponents 431

SCORE BY INNINGS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Ex	Total
Georgia	31	52	39	34	36	42	45	25	21	6	331
Opponents	33	42	41	35	45	40	20	48	26	15	345

TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 69,556
HOME: 22,692 **AWAY:** 46,864
TOTAL AVERAGE: 1,288
HOME: 782 **AWAY:** 1,874



NUMERICAL

No.	NAME	POS.	B-T	HT.	WT.	CL.-EX.	DOB	HOMETOWN (HS or College)
1	Mark Watson	LHP	R-L	6-4	220	JR-TR	1/23/74	Dunwoody, Ga. (Clemson)
2	Brian Bobier	OF	R-R	6-1	185	SO-1L	3/29/75	Greeley, Colo. (Greeley Central HS)
3	Pete Arenas	SS	L-R	5-10	180	SR-3L	12/7/73	Waukegan, Ill. (Waukegan HS)
4	Chris Crawford	OF/RHP	R-R	6-3	190	FR-HS	10/14/76	Marietta, Ga. (Wheeler HS)
5	Wes Blackwood	OF	R-R	6-1	160	FR-HS	3/21/77	Roswell, Ga. (Roswell HS)
6	Bobby Bethel	2B	R-R	6-1	175	JR-TR	3/9/74	Dalton, Ga. (Western Carolina)
7	Joey Cranford	2B/3B	R-R	6-2	180	SO-1L	2/10/75	Macon, Ga. (Stratford Academy)
8	Billy Gasparino	2B/SS	R-R	6-0	170	FR-HS	11/28/76	Valrico, Fla. (Jesuit HS)
9	Josh Salmon	LHP	L-L	6-0	175	SO-1L	9/23/76	Tampa, Fla. (Plant HS)
11	Shane Hopper	3B	R-R	6-1	190	SO-1L	9/22/75	Winder, Ga. (Winder-Barrow HS)
15	Brian Todd	OF	R-R	6-1	180	JR-TR	10/3/74	Alpharetta, Ga. (DeKalb JC)
16	Shane Pangle	1B/3B	L-R	6-3	215	FR-HS	5/26/76	Martinez, Ga. (Evans HS)
17	Chris Stowers	OF	L-L	6-3	200	SR-3L	8/18/74	Marietta, Ga. (Walton HS)
19	Doug Bridges	LHP	L-L	6-2	190	SO-TR	7/20/76	Columbia, S.C. (Citadel)
20	Chip Wade	C	R-R	6-1	205	JR-1L	3/15/75	Pensacola, Fla. (Jefferson Davis JC)
22	Matt Hanson	INF/RHP	R-R	6-2	195	FR-HS	11/7/76	Safety Harbor, Fla. (Countryside HS)
25	Keith Brownlee	RHP	R-R	6-1	170	SO-1L	10/7/75	Fayetteville, Ga. (Fayette Co. HS)
28	Zack Frachiseur	RHP	R-R	6-0	190	FR-HS	9/30/76	Conyers, Ga. (Rockdale Co. HS)
29	Rex Stephens	RHP	R-R	6-3	175	SO-1L	4/4/75	Marietta, Ga. (Wheeler HS)
30	Ben Gluesenkamp	C	R-R	6-1	180	SO-TR	3/6/75	Tallahassee, Fla. (Tallahassee CC)
31	Chris Hall	RHP	R-R	6-3	200	SO-1L	4/22/75	Martinez, Ga. (Evans HS)
32	Jarrett Bridges	LHP	L-L	6-1	180	FR-HS	2/16/77	Valdosta, Ga. (Valdosta HS)
36	Bruce Link	RHP	R-R	6-0	190	SR-1L	2/8/74	Pompano Beach, Fla. (Brevard CC)
38	Josh Gandy	LHP	R-L	6-2	205	SO-1L	10/12/75	Ringgold, Ga. (Ringgold HS)
39	Tommy Carter	C	R-R	6-1	205	SO-TR	5/24/76	Gainesville, Ga. (DeKalb JC)
44	Erik Robinson	OF	L-L	6-1	200	JR-2L	7/27/75	Orlando, Fla. (West Orange HS)
45	Travis Stroud	1B	L-R	6-3	275	FR-RS	10/23/75	Atlanta, Ga. (Dunwoody HS)

HEAD COACH: #27 Steve Webber
ASST. COACH: #21 Matt Fincher
ASST. COACH: #37 Fritz Hamburg

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

ARENAS	uh-REEN-us
BOBIER	bo-BEER
FRACHISEUR	FRASIER
GASPARINO	Gas-puh-REEN-oh
GLUESENKAMP	GLEECE-n-camp
SALMON	SAL-mon
STOWERS	ss-TOWERS

BY CLASS:

Senior:	3
Junior:	5
Sophomores:	11
Freshmen:	8

BY STATE:

Georgia:	17
Florida:	7
Colorado:	1
Illinois:	1
South Carolina:	1

ALPHABETICAL

No.	NAME	POS.	B-T	HT.	WT.	CL.-EX.	DOB	HOMETOWN (HS or College)
3	Pete Arenas	SS	L-R	5-10	180	SR-3L	12/7/73	Waukegan, Ill. (Waukegan HS)
6	Bobby Bethel	2B	R-R	6-1	175	JR-TR	3/9/74	Dalton, Ga. (Western Carolina)
5	Wes Blackwood	OF	R-R	6-1	160	FR-HS	3/21/77	Roswell, Ga. (Roswell HS)
2	Brian Bobier	OF	R-R	6-1	185	SO-1L	3/29/75	Greeley, Colo. (Greeley Central HS)
19	Doug Bridges	LHP	L-L	6-2	190	SO-TR	7/20/76	Columbia, S.C. (Citadel)
32	Jarrett Bridges	LHP	L-L	6-1	180	FR-HS	2/16/77	Valdosta, Ga. (Valdosta HS)
25	Keith Brownlee	RHP	R-R	6-1	170	SO-1L	10/7/75	Fayetteville, Ga. (Fayette Co. HS)
39	Tommy Carter	C	R-R	6-1	205	SO-TR	5/24/76	Gainesville, Ga. (DeKalb JC)
7	Joey Cranford	2B/3B	R-R	6-2	180	SO-1L	2/10/75	Macon, Ga. (Stratford Academy)
4	Chris Crawford	OF/RHP	R-R	6-3	190	FR-HS	10/14/76	Marietta, Ga. (Wheeler HS)
28	Zack Frachiseur	RHP	R-R	6-0	190	FR-HS	9/30/76	Conyers, Ga. (Rockdale Co. HS)
38	Josh Gandy	LHP	R-L	6-2	205	SO-1L	10/12/75	Ringgold, Ga. (Ringgold HS)
8	Billy Gasparino	2B/SS	R-R	6-0	170	FR-HS	11/28/76	Valrico, Fla. (Jesuit HS)
30	Ben Gluesenkamp	C	R-R	6-1	180	SO-TR	3/6/75	Tallahassee, Fla. (Tallahassee CC)
31	Chris Hall	RHP	R-R	6-3	200	SO-1L	4/22/75	Martinez, Ga. (Evans HS)
22	Matt Hanson	INF/RHP	R-R	6-2	195	FR-HS	11/7/76	Safety Harbor, Fla. (Countryside HS)
11	Shane Hopper	3B	R-R	6-1	190	SO-1L	9/22/75	Winder, Ga. (Winder-Barrow HS)
36	Bruce Link	RHP	R-R	6-0	190	SR-1L	2/8/74	Pompano Beach, Fla. (Brevard CC)
16	Shane Pangle	1B/3B	L-R	6-3	215	FR-HS	5/26/76	Martinez, Ga. (Evans HS)
44	Erik Robinson	OF	L-L	6-1	200	JR-2L	7/27/75	Orlando, Fla. (West Orange HS)
9	Josh Salmon	LHP	L-L	6-0	175	SO-1L	9/23/76	Tampa, Fla. (Plant HS)
29	Rex Stephens	RHP	R-R	6-3	175	SO-1L	4/4/75	Marietta, Ga. (Wheeler HS)
17	Chris Stowers	OF	L-L	6-3	200	SR-3L	8/18/74	Marietta, Ga. (Walton HS)
45	Travis Stroud	1B	L-R	6-3	275	FR-RS	10/23/75	Atlanta, Ga. (Dunwoody HS)
15	Brian Todd	OF	R-R	6-1	180	JR-TR	10/3/74	Alpharetta, Ga. (DeKalb JC)
20	Chip Wade	C	R-R	6-1	205	JR-1L	3/15/75	Pensacola, Fla. (Jefferson Davis JC)
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