



OFFICE OF SPORTS INFORMATION

SPORTS NEWS

MENS



BASKETBALL

REINHART, PANTHERS SEEK RESPECT IN COMING HOOP SEASON 8/12/85

(Atlanta, GA) - Despite a twenty game losing streak and a disastrous 0-15 Trans America Athletic Conference mark last year, the Division I debut of new Georgia State University head coach Bob Reinhart has sparked renewed enthusiasm at the Atlanta based school.

Reinhart's attempt to "...make it so folks don't just walk in here, tighten their sneakers and expect a win" will be tested early as the Panthers host four in-state rivals and go on the road to meet Georgia, South Carolina and Clemson before Christmas. In addition, they will face Miami (Fla.) in the opening round of the Miami Hurricane Classic, a Thanksgiving tournament which also features Georgia and Cornell. Miami is "coming out" after a fifteen year absence from the ranks of intercollegiate basketball.

East Tennessee State and UNC-Charlotte will serve as additional non-conference tests for the Panthers, who open their TAAC slate on January 2 at home against Houston Baptist University.

Reinhart begins his first year at the helm of State after spending the past two seasons as an assistant with the NBA's Atlanta Hawks. Prior to that, Reinhart spent a decade and a half at Decatur High School in nearby Decatur, Georgia, where he built a reputation as one of the most successful prep coaches in state history.

Georgia State will be competing for their second season in the TAAC, which features other Georgia schools Mercer University in Macon and Georgia Southern College in Statesboro. Mercer received the conference's automatic bid to last season's NCAA tournament, but lost in the opening round to eventual Final Four participant Georgia Tech.

(See SCHEDULE)

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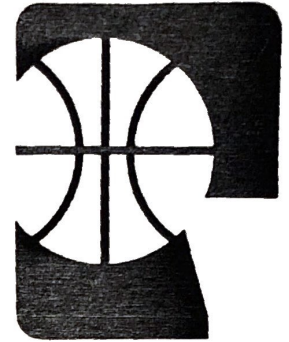
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OFFICE OF SPORTS INFORMATION

SPORTS NEWS

MENS



BASKETBALL

THE NEW KID ON THE GEORGIA STATE BLOCK

ASSISTANT MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH, CARTER WILSON

4/3/85

Carter Wilson, named this week as an assistant men's basketball coach at Georgia State University, is a young man who has come to expect success. And as a trait of an excellent coach, Wilson has shown the ability to adjust his coaching styles to a variety of challenges.

Recently named as Dekalb County's Coach of the Year by several groups, Wilson re-joins his former boss Bob Reinhart, who was also Carter's coach at Decatur High School in the early 70's. Wilson's 1984 Decatur High School team recently won a region championship.

Winning a region title is not necessarily an earth shaking achievement at Decatur High School, where Reinhart's team's were expected to go to the playoffs annually. What makes Wilson's achievements at the helm of the Bulldogs so impressive was his ability to instill new coaching strategies and defensive skills into the talented and well schooled Decatur fold.

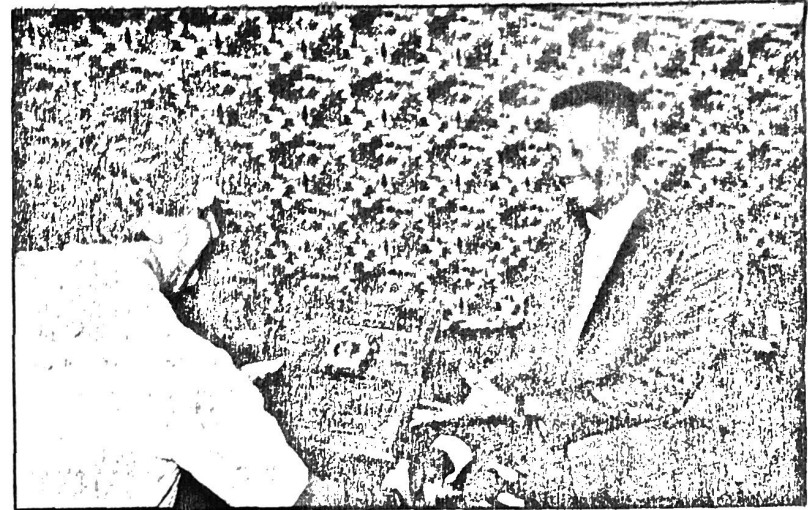
In Wilson's two seasons as head coach of Decatur, the Bulldogs took over where Reinhart left off when he joined the Atlanta Hawks as an assistant in 1983, posting overall totals of 50 wins and 10 losses in two seasons, with less imposing talent than in some years past.

The 31-year-old Wilson received his undergraduate degree from Clark College while playing two years of varsity basketball at the Atlanta school. Carter is single and resides in Decatur. His duties at Georgia State will include on the floor coaching duties as well as recruiting.

-GSU-



PLAYER OF THE YEAR ROLAND SHELTON
Senior Says He Is "Leaning Toward Clemson" Signing



DECATUR'S CARTER WILSON, RIGHT
Presented Coach Of Year Award by Lakeside's Ron Link

Wilson, Shelton Honored By DeKalb Tipoff Club

Decatur head basketball coach Carter Wilson and Roland Shelton, one of his former players who moved to Columbia for his senior season were honored Saturday as then top coach and player in the

county by the DeKalb Tipoff Club.

The award for Shelton capped off a high school career that saw the 6-5 guard named to the Tipoff Club's top 25 team for four consecutive years.

Shelton said after the breakfast that he is "leaning toward signing with Clemson," but that he had not made a verbal commitment to the Tigers.

Wilson, the coach of the year award was a pickup after his team was upset last week by Duluth in the second round of the state playoffs due to a controversial goal-tending call.

Stone Mountain's Stuart Saunders was presented the Britt Franks Memorial award by Franks's father. The A.Z. Johnson award was given to DeKalb County Athletic Relations Specialist Phil Schaefer.

The club, at its annual breakfast, tapped 25 high school players from the county for its team of the year.

Team of the year members are: Kevin Ardister, S.W. DeKalb; Phillip Bailey, Tucker; Tom Bock, Marist; Simon Brewer, S.W. DeKalb; Lonnie Carter, Avondale; Kacey Chambers, Lakeside; Ricky Clark, Lithonia; Leroy Donahue, Avondale; Anthony Gordon, Deca-

Adoo, Clarkston; Mike Mitchell, Shamrock; Dion Pettus, Redan; John Richey, Druid Hills; Jim Riley, Marist; Eric Rivers, Towers; Roland Shelton, Columbia; Kevin Smith, Stone Mountain; John Sommers, Cross Keys; Steve Thompson, Henderson; Jeff Vandenberg, Dunwoody; Gary Waites, Towers; Kelsey Weems, Walker, Tim Wright, Decatur.

Members of the club's all-academic team, along with their grade-point averages are Jeff Webb, Lakeside (3.65); Rob Holloway, Dunwoody (3.65); Cole Ollinger, St. Pius (3.76); Paul Rodgers, St. Pius (3.83); Joel Badger, Cross Keys (3.85); Tim Remshik, Redan (3.87); Steve Baily, Redan (3.95); Steve Lewungrub, Henderson (3.97).

Lots Of Action For DeKalb South — And Not All Of It Is On The Court

DeKalb South opened play Tuesday at the National Junior College Basketball Tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas, while its top scorer, sophomore Terry Martin, made a verbal commitment Monday that he would play basketball next season for Georgia State under newly named head coach Bob Reinhart.

Larry Reid's Eagles met Erie Community College Tuesday in the first round of the tournament, but a big question mark hangs over the Eagles' 33-1 record.

South was told this week that it may have to forfeit most of its wins after sophomore Richard Bryant was ruled ineligible be-

stating that he had not played college basketball previously, and ironically, if he had admitted he had played the two games at Manatee, Reid could have applied and probably would have received "hardship status" for Bryant.

St. Patrick's Day Race At Virginia Highlands

The Virginia Highlands Track Club will hold a St. Patrick's Day 5K road race Saturday. The race will start at 9 a.m. from Murphy's Delicatessen at the corner of Los Angeles and N. Highland Avenues

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Wilson's little jewel: A brand new offense with the same old results

By Jim Satterly
Sports Editor

It's not hard to detail why Decatur coach Carter Wilson has been selected as DeKalb EXTRA's Coach of the Year. After losing the state's No. 1 player, Roland Shelton, to transfer last spring, he took a team with only one returning starter to subregion and region championships, a 26-4 record, and 17 straight wins, including one in the state tournament.

He had only one starter over 6-1. His small forward was 5-10. He didn't have the great shooters or great depth that Decatur teams are usually blessed with.

Yet as fine a season as Decatur had, it wasn't all that surprising. After taking over as head coach from Decatur institution Bob Reinhart in 1983 — not an enviable task — Wilson led the team to a 24-6 record and the state AAA quarterfinals.

But the extraordinary thing to know about this season was that Wilson had the audacity to change Decatur's offense. The Reinhart offense that had put hundreds of points up for

the Bulldogs over the years was scrapped, banished to the junk heap. And it was far from heretical.

"Carter grew up with Bob's stack and all the kids did, too," explains Chris Billingsley, Wilson's assistant. "But Carter was smart enough to know that offense wouldn't work with these kids because we didn't have the height or shooters we've had in the past.

"So he went out on a limb and shopped around for something new, and by the end of the year it was working really well. It was like his little jewel — kinda rough at the start, sparkling at the end."

Says Wilson, "We gave everybody an opportunity to touch the ball, and that created

See Wilson

11

more offensive weapons teams had to prepare for. Plus, we kinda lined up like we normally do in the stack. So that while people prepared for what they thought we were doing, we were doing something totally different."

It was also the year in which Wilson, in a sense, grew up. Finally out from under the Reinhart shadow, he became more confident, more sure of himself in

making decisions and in dealing with officials and players.

"Carter enjoyed coaching a lot more this year than he did last year," says Billingsley. "He had a group of guys that really paid attention to him. It wasn't like last year when he had to worry about other kinds of problems. This year he really got close to some of the guys."

This year's juniors — the majority of the team — played for Wilson when he coached the eighth grade team three years ago. "It was like a reunion, I could demand a lot of things from them because we had been down the road before," says Wilson. "That's one of the reasons I'm so happy to receive this award. It's an honor not only to me personally, but to Chris, our players, and everybody connected with our program. They share in it just as much as I do."

Wilson has always been known as a defensive coach. As Reinhart's assistant, he handled the defense while Reinhart took care of the offense. This season Wilson stressed defense, particularly with the period he spent teaching basketball fundamentals at each practice.

"You don't have to teach our kids a whole lot of offense, but you've got to teach them some defense and Carter was great at that," says Billingsley. "He taught them defensive fundamentals they didn't know before. Everybody was playing together on defense, and that's what got us in the tournament."

Wilson also points out that former Decatur star Melvin "Hollywood" Howard, who has played so well this season at the University of Georgia, became a role model.

"When he left here, everyone at Decatur wanted to throw behind-the-back passes and do the kinds of things he could do," says Wilson. "This year at Georgia he became a defensive specialist, so everybody at Decatur wanted to be a defensive specialist. It really helped us that he had the kind of season he had."



JIM SATTERLY/Staff

Out from under the Reinhart shadow, Wilson (l) became more confident.

DEKALB EXTRA, MARCH 14, 1985



JIM SATTERLY/Staff

Wilson coached most of this year's team before, so he was able to demand more.

Bears face Georgia State's rookie coach

By Ed Grisamore

Macon Telegraph and News

It will be the "rookie" vs. the "veteran" in the Trans America Athletic Conference this afternoon in Atlanta when Coaches Mark Slonaker and Bill Bibb match wits on the basketball court.

Slonaker, a 27-year-old former University of Georgia basketball player, was named head coach at Georgia State in early December when Tom Pugliese was fired. He will put his 2-11 Panthers, currently residing at the bottom of the TAAC standings, against Bibb, the dean of conference coaches in his 11th season at Mercer. Bibb's Bears are 9-3 and regarded as one of the top teams in the league this season.

The game will be played in the Georgia State Athletic Center at 1:30 p.m.

Before the season began, Slonaker said he never dreamed he would suddenly be calling the shots after serving one season as an assistant under Pugliese last year.

"EVERYBODY KNEW there was problems between Coach Pugliese and the (Georgia State) administration. But, yes, I was shocked he was fired," Slonaker said. "I wasn't all that surprised I was named head coach. I've always had a lot of confidence in myself.

"But you don't go around thinking the head coach is going to get fired at the beginning of the season and that you're going to be named. I was flattered they chose me to be the one to lead the program. I'm young, but I know I can get the job done and I want to lead this program to respectability."

After completing his senior season at Georgia in 1978-79, Coach Hugh Durham's first year in Athens, Slonaker served as a volunteer assistant coach under Durham in 1979-80. He was named head coach at Lovett Academy in Atlanta the next year.

"I was happy as a high school coach, and I started on that level because I wanted to be a head coach first," he said. "I've seen so many assistant college coaches who weren't able to get a head coaching job on the college level because they had no head coaching experience."

LOVETT WENT 0-22 the year before Slonaker arrived. Playing mostly freshmen and sophomores in his first season, Lovett won four games under Slonaker, then nine

and then went 12-12 in his final season.

"They hadn't been at .500 since 1970," Slonaker said. "Last year, they won 18 games, and this year they're 6-3. I'm proud of the fact I kind of got the program going. I didn't complete it, but I kind of got it going on the right track."

But he said he longed to get back into coaching in college. And when Pugliese was named head coach at Georgia State last year, Slonaker was hired as an assistant.

"When you play on the college level and are used to the crowds and the atmosphere, you want to get back to it," he said. "I like working with college-age kids and relating to them. That was my goal — to get back to the college level."

WHEN HE TOOK over the head coaching reins, he inherited a program with little basketball tradition — a commuter school in a large urban area. The Panthers finished 6-22 last year and have wins over only Huntingdon and Augusta College in 13 games this season.

But Slonaker said he realized what he was up against when he took the job. He sat down and drew up a list of long- and short-term goals.

"We first need to win a few games in the conference," he said. "We have seven new players on the team. It's been frustrating because we haven't gelled and our chemistry isn't there yet. But we're on the verge of becoming a good team. I just try to keep a lot of positive reinforcement going and stay behind them."

Slonaker's long-term goals include a better recruiting effort and a desire to schedule more regional colleges.

Being at a commuter school, Slonaker is faced with a situation unlike most teams in the TAAC. When he shows prospective athletes the athletic dormitory, he takes them to a Best Western motel two blocks off campus. But he said that isn't necessarily a disadvantage.

"IT DEPENDS on the type kid you recruit," he said. "If you're recruiting a shy kid, it's tough to get him to come into a city the size of Atlanta and ask him to be independent in a downtown Atlanta hotel. But if you recruit a more mature kid who's a good student — especially a junior college kid — when you talk to them about living in a hotel in downtown Atlanta, they get pretty fired up."

Five of the 12 players on the Panthers' roster are from the metro-Atlanta area. The remainder are out-of-state students.

Slonaker starts five juniors, and his team is averaging 66.1 points per game while giving up an average of 83.4 points per outing.

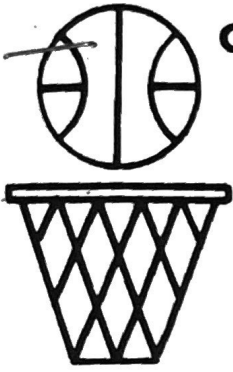


ROBERT SEAY/Macon Telegraph and News

Mercer's Bill Bibb is the dean of the TAAC



Mark Slonaker



GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

December 4, 1984

Dr. Sherman Day, Athletic Director of Georgia State University, announced tonight that he is relieving Tom Pugliese of his coaching responsibilities at G.S.U.

Dr. Day announced that Mark Slonaker will assume the interim head coaching duties, and Bill Muse will step up to Associate Coach and Recruiting Director.

Coach Slonaker, a 1980 graduate of the University of Georgia and former Captain of the Bulldogs basketball team, has been an assistant coach at G.S.U. for the past two years. He was previously Head Coach at the Lovett School. Previous to joining the G.S.U. staff, Coach Muse was an Assistant Coach at South Alabama.

Inquiries should be directed to Dr. Day at 434-9725 (home), 658-2772 (work), or Dr. Rankin Cooter, Associate Athletic Director, 658-2772.

--GSU--

PANTHER BASKETBALL



Sports News from Georgia State

OFFICE OF SPORTS INFORMATION: BABS JOHNSTON, SID HOME: 404-633-9316

UNIVERSITY PLAZA, ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303 404-658-3168

12/4/84

For Immediate Release

SLONAKER HOPES TO CREATE A SOLID FAMILY IN NEW POST

(Atlanta, GA): Youth--the one ingredient that new Head Men's Basketball Coach Mark Slonaker has that separates him from the past at GSU, and perhaps it is the one ingredient that makes basketball fans at Georgia State most excited about the future. After spending little more than a year as an Assistant in the fledgling rebuilding era at GSU, Slonaker finds himself as the man thrust into the director's chair as Interim Head Men's Basketball Coach.

"This is a young team, and I believe we have a young team blessed with potential," Slonaker remarked. "But the first thing we need to do is to get comfortable and learn to play together. We'll worry about the X's and O's later, right now I want our players to understand that we plan to build a winner here together, and they are a vital part of the whole picture."

Slonaker added that his relationship with the players will help him to better communicate. "I think I'm a people person, and that is where I hope I can create a good rapport between the players and myself. You know, it hasn't really been that many years since I spent time on the floor as a player, and I know what goes through the minds of all those young men, whether they are on the bench or in the starting lineup because I've been in all those positions." Slonaker said referring to his days as a player, co-captain and, later, a coach with the Georgia Bulldogs.

Before coming to Georgia State, Slonaker was credited with turning a Lovett High School (Atlanta) boys basketball program into a winner.

And if his youth is Slonaker's greatest asset in dealing with his players and the future, experience is one thing he can turn to in his right hand man, Bill Muse. Muse, recently elevated to Associate



Sports News from Georgia State

OFFICE OF SPORTS INFORMATION: BABS JOHNSTON, SID HOME: 404-633-9316

UNIVERSITY PLAZA, ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303 404-658-3168

12/4/84

For Immediate Release

PANTHERS NET FIRST 84 WIN

(Atlanta, GA)--Georgia State University's men's basketball squad outlasted a quick and intense Huntington College team to post their first win of the season against two losses, 82-77 on the floor of the GSU Athletic Center Tuesday afternoon.

The win was keyed by a solid second half of shooting by the Panthers, who drilled 16 of 22 shots from the field to overcome a 35-34 halftime deficit. Decatur, Ga. native Chris Jackson, last year's national field goal percentage champ according to The Sporting News (71%), led the charge by bucketing a team high 18 points on 8 of 11 shooting. Action Jackson also led the way on the boards with 7 rebounds. Junior center Jevon Estes (Jev-un) was also impressive from the field, (3-4), and the line, (10-11), for sixteen points and six rebounds in just nineteen minutes of play.

Huntington, a small Indiana College, was led by Chuck Moore who pumped in 23 points. Steve Mort added 18 and Brett Baker 17 in the losing effort.

The win capped off a brief one game home stint and sends the Panthers on the road with a victory under their belts. The young squad faces their toughest string of the year, with the Champion Holiday Classic December 7th and 8th at the University of Montana, featuring Arkansas-Little Rock, Northeastern University and the host Montana Grizzlies. Following the weekend tourney, the cats stay on the road in a meeting with Big Ten opponent Iowa. After that battle with the Hawkeyes the worrys don't end for new Head Coach Mark Slonaker as the Panthers will face the Georgia Bulldogs in Athens before coming home to face Augusta College in another afternoon lunch special on December 17th at the GSU Athletic Center.

GSU SPORTS INFORMATION OFFICE
by Babs Johnston, SID

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAILED: Nov. 21, 1984

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* GSU TIPS OFF SEASON *
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* THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1984 *
*
* 12:30pm GSU PANTHERS vs ST. LEO'S COLLEGE *
*
* 2:30pm GSU LADY PANTHERS vs ST. LEO'S COLLEGE *
*

MEN'S BASKETBALL READYING FOR SEASON OPENER

"Now that we're only about one week away from our opening game, I think we've made some good strides in our practices," reports Head Coach Tom Pugliese, "But until we've played our first game, we really won't know how far we've come or how far we have to go," confesses the Panthers mentor. Pugliese believes that the future of Georgia State basketball may well lie in how well he has been able to mesh GSU's seven new players into his program. "Some of our new people have done extremely well," says Pugliese, "and because of that, a few of our older people have become better players."

After the team's intersquad scrimmage at Franklin County High School in Carnesville, GA, last Friday night, Assistant Coach Bill Muse commented, "we're making gradual improvements on a daily basis, but we need to continue to improve our man-to-man defense. Our offensive power game looks better," Muse concluded, "but still needs more execution." The GSU men's team was well received by the crowd at the north Georgia high school and the hometown folks were particularly pleased to see one of GSU's newcomers, Franklin County High School graduate Dewey Haley.

Coach Pugliese was pleased that his men were able to view themselves on video after the scrimmage so that both strengths and weakness were evident and could be worked on this week. "I'm hoping that we will be improved and that by the time our conference season begins," says Pugliese, "that we will be in a position to be competitive." While expressing a cautious optimism about his young team and the possibilities of some of his new players, Pugliese, doesn't hesitate to mention one of his top returnees, Chris Jackson. Jackson, who was rated number one in the nation in field goal percentages by Sporting News last season, is, according to his head coach, "without a doubt a very exciting player." Pugliese adds, "Chris Jackson deserves to be seen by many people, because once you see him, you'll want to see him again."

Well, folks, we'll leave you on that note, and hope to see a lot of you at our opener on Thursday, November 29th. Come on down, take a "Panther Pause" and have "Lunch with the Bunch" on us! (free lunch ticket enclosed.)

LADY PANTHERS GEAR UP FOR OPENER

The GSU Lady Panthers had their first taste of competition as they sparred with the Clark College women's basketball team this past weekend. "We realized in the scrimmage that we can't do some of the things we'd like to do with the personnel we have this year," confessed Head Coach Rich Keast. "We may have to tone down our running game and try a more patterned inside power game," the second year coach admitted. Keast says that his young team (only three seniors) needs to really work a lot more on the execution of both the offense and the defense and to worry less about running. Coach Keast believes that the team lacks the intensity needed for crisp execution and he was disappointed with the Clark scrimmage. "But," says Keast, "I saw it coming. I could tell we were headed for this sort of thing after watching the way the girls have approached our practices for the last week. They were just 'going through the motions.'"

However, Keast and his Assistants Tony Graham and Mary Rucker, still feel that their young team will be ready for their first game this coming Thursday (Nov. 29th) against St. Leo's. The Lady Panthers play after the men in their first and only double header of the season. "But it's really up to the girls," says Keast, "they're the ones who are playing the game, they're the ones who've got to be ready." Keast concludes, "It's important for us to get off to a quick start as a team to build confidence in our young players."

Hopefully, the Lady Panthers will get off to a good start with St. Leo's on Thursday as they face Jacksonville State University on Monday, December 3rd. The Jacksonville game is another "Panther Pause" with tip off at 12:30...so, if you don't use your "Free Lunch Ticket" on the 29th, plan to use it on the 3rd!

SWIM TEAM SHOWS IMPROVEMENT

Thanks to a forfeit by the Georgia Southern Women's Swim Team, the GSU Men's Swim Team was able to get some help from its women's counterpart last Friday, November 16th. Kathy Peek pulled first place in the 1 mtr diving and 2nd place in the 3 mtr diving competition, while teammate Erin Wheeler took a first place in the 500 freestyle and a third place in the 200 freestyle. "Georgia Southern was stronger than we thought they would be," said GSU Head Swim Coach Ted Boyette. "They have some real fine swimmers. But since their women's team forfeitted, we had a chance to use some of our top women swimmers." Boyette admitted. "I'm real pleased with the showings of Kathy Peek and Erin Wheeler." Among the men who did well, Joe Whitwell placed 2nd and teammate Steve Phillips took 3rd in the 50-yd freestyle. Phillips also placed 3rd in the 100-yd, while Greg Barto captured first place honors in the same event. Barto also placed second in the 200-yd breaststroke. After the Georgia Southern meet, Boyette said he was pleased that the team had at least improved its scoring from its first meet, "There was a real improvement in times, said Boyette, "and that's what's most important to the team. Our improvement at a team and as individuals is what really counts."

With an attitude like this, the GSU Swimming Team can't lose! They face their next contest with the University of the South on Monday, November 26 at 6pm.