

SPORTS

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE					
EAST					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New England	10	5	0	.667	398 322
Miami	7	8	0	.467	302 391
Buffalo	5	10	0	.333	227 357
N.Y. Jets	4	11	0	.267	330 403
SOUTH					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Houston	10	5	0	.667	382 313
Indianapolis	9	6	0	.600	400 327
Tennessee	9	6	0	.600	293 270
Jacksonville	5	10	0	.333	242 296
NORTH					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	9	6	0	.600	363 263
Pittsburgh	8	6	1	.567	412 347
Cleveland	7	7	1	.500	335 366
Cincinnati	6	9	0	.400	355 439
WEST					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Kansas City	11	4	0	.733	530 418
x-L.A. Chargers	11	4	0	.733	405 320
Denver	6	9	0	.400	320 326
Oakland	4	11	0	.267	287 432
NATIONAL CONFERENCE					
EAST					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Dallas	9	6	0	.600	303 289
Philadelphia	8	7	0	.533	343 348
Washington	7	8	0	.467	281 335
N.Y. Giants	5	10	0	.333	334 376
SOUTH					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New Orleans	13	2	0	.867	490 320
Atlanta	6	9	0	.400	380 391
Carolina	6	9	0	.400	343 368
Tampa Bay	5	10	0	.333	364 430
NORTH					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Chicago	11	4	0	.733	397 273
Minnesota	8	6	1	.567	350 317
Green Bay	6	8	1	.433	376 369
Detroit	5	10	0	.333	293 360
WEST					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-L.A. Rams	12	3	0	.800	479 352
x-Seattle	9	6	0	.600	401 323
San Francisco	4	11	0	.267	310 387
Arizona	3	12	0	.200	201 398
x-clinched playoff spot					
y-clinched division					

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE					
ATLANTIC DIVISION					
W	L	Pct	GB		
Toronto	26	10	.722	—	
Philadelphia	23	13	.639	3	
Boston	20	14	.588	5	
Brooklyn	17	19	.472	9	
New York	9	27	.250	17	
SOUTHEAST DIVISION					
W	L	Pct	GB		
Charlotte	16	17	.485	—	
Miami	16	17	.485	—	
Orlando	14	19	.424	2	
Washington	13	22	.371	4	
Atlanta	9	24	.273	7	
CENTRAL DIVISION					
W	L	Pct	GB		
Milwaukee	24	10	.706	—	
Indiana	23	12	.657	1½	
Detroit	16	16	.500	7	
Chicago	9	26	.257	15½	
Cleveland	8	27	.229	16½	
WESTERN CONFERENCE					
SOUTHWEST DIVISION					
W	L	Pct	GB		
Houston	19	15	.559	—	
San Antonio	19	16	.543	½	
Memphis	18	16	.529	1	
Dallas	16	17	.485	2½	
New Orleans	15	20	.429	4½	
NORTHWEST DIVISION					
W	L	Pct	GB		
Denver	21	11	.656	—	
Oklahoma City	21	12	.636	½	
Portland	20	15	.571	2½	
Utah	17	19	.472	6	
Minnesota	16	18	.471	6	
PACIFIC DIVISION					
W	L	Pct	GB		
Golden State	23	13	.639	—	
L.A. Clippers	20	14	.588	2	
L.A. Lakers	20	15	.571	2½	
Sacramento	19	16	.543	3½	
Phoenix	9	26	.257	13½	

TAKE PART

MOUNT ZION BASKETBALL

The Mount Zion Recreation Department is currently accepting registrations at City Hall for the 2018-19 boys' and girls' basketball seasons for ages 5-12. Cost is \$40. For more details, call 678-796-5129.

CARROLLTON BLUEFINS

The Carrollton Bluefins swim school will begin its next class on Jan. 7, 2019. The program is open to swimmers age 5-12. For more information, call 770-832-1134 or visit CarrolltonBlueFins.com.

ON DECK

SATURDAY

GIRLS' PREP BASKETBALL NEW MANCHESTER HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT

Villa Rica vs TBA, TBA*

*Tournament held at New Manchester High School
**HILLBURN-PATTERSON
HARALSON COUNTY
INVITATIONAL**

Bowdon vs TBA, TBA*

Heard County vs TBA, TBA*

Central vs TBA, TBA*

Temple vs TBA, TBA*

*Tournament held at Haralson County High School

USMC BALLIN PREP INVITATIONAL

Carrollton vs TBA, TBA*

*Tournament held at Thompson High School in Alabaster, AL.

BOYS' PREP BASKETBALL HILLBURN-PATTERSON HARALSON COUNTY INVITATIONAL

Central vs TBA, TBA

Bowdon vs TBA, TBA

Haralson County vs TBA, TBA

Temple vs TBA, TBA

ACE HARDWARE CHRISTMAS CLASH

Bremen vs TBA, TBA*

*Tournament held at Adairsville High School
**CAMPBELL CHRISTMAS
TOURNAMENT**

Carrollton vs TBA, TBA*

*Tournament held at Campbell High School

NEW MANCHESTER HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT

Villa Rica vs TBA, TBA

2018 TIMES-GEORGIAN ALL-AREA MVP: TREYLON SHEPPARD — HARALSON COUNTY



Nick Simon/Times-Georgian

When one looks up the greatest individual rushing seasons in Georgia high school football history, the 2018 campaign of Haralson County High School's Treyton Sheppard will be near the top. The 2018 Times-Georgian All-Area Most Valuable Player shattered Nick Chubb's regular season rushing record by running for 2,944 yards to go along with 33 touchdowns and 21 two-point conversions.

Haralson's Runnin' Rebel

Sheppard reflects on historic season in Tallapoosa

BY NICK SIMON
THE TIMES-GEORGIAN

Take a glance at the Georgia high school football record books and you'll find the names of legendary running backs who have compiled some of the greatest individual seasons on the ground that the Peach State has ever seen.

Herschel Walker. Micah Andrews. Nick Chubb.

Oh yeah, and Treyton Sheppard.

Toting the rock for an outstanding 2,944 rushing yards, 33 touchdowns and 21 two-point conversions, the senior feature back for Haralson County High School shattered Chubb's state regular-season rushing mark this past fall and came within striking distance of catching former Washington-Wilkes star Daccus Turman's overall record of 3,172 set back in 2000.

But ask the 2018 Times-Georgian All-Area Most Valuable Player himself and he'll be the first to tell you that his phenomenal 2018 campaign wasn't a one-man show. It was a total team effort.

"It's an honor. I'm glad I can be up there with some of the great names that's ever played in Georgia history. But it was never about me, it was all about the team," Sheppard said. "Matter of fact, my goal was only getting 1,000 yards for the season and Coach (Scott) Peavey just told me heading in, 'Hey, you're going to get the ball this season. It's on you.' And my reaction was, 'Alright, let's do this thing.' The linemen got confident and comfortable in the offense that we were running, and I loved the offense that we were running. It just turned into something dangerous and we started getting yards after yards after yards and they just couldn't stop us."

Rebel head coach Scott Peavey put into perspective what exactly his workhorse running back had accomplished.

"When you can say that you beat Nick Chubb's record, that's all that needs to be said," Peavey said. "Nick Chubb's an



Nadav Soroker/Times-Georgian

Sheppard's sensational senior year was the catalyst for Haralson County's turnaround in 2018, an 8-3 campaign in which they made the postseason for the first time since 2010. The Rebel standout will be the first to tell you that his incredible season wasn't a one-man show, but a full team effort paved by his offensive line.

amazing football player and had an amazing career and you can put your name with that guy's name? That's unbelievable and couldn't have happened to a better kid."

More important to both Sheppard and Peavey than any individual accolade was team success and Haralson County experienced a renaissance in 2018.

Only winning nine games combined from 2013-2017, the Rebels became the surprise team of both Region 6-AAA and the entire area by surging to an 8-3 record, their best since 2007, and their first Class AAA postseason appearance since 2010.

The head coach talked about how the work ethic of his back set the tone for the entire program.

"He was definitely the catalyst for our success. It didn't start with the fact that he's a good football player, it's the fact that he's a tremendous teammate," Peavey said. "He's a two-time state champion powerlifter and he set the tempo for our offseason workout program. The effort that he put into it every day, everybody else couldn't help but follow suit. It gave all of these other guys some leadership that they needed and obviously the turnaround that we had was a reflection of the way that

he led our football team."

For Sheppard, that turnaround began nearly two years ago when Peavey returned to Tallapoosa for his second stint as HC's head man.

"Coach Peavey told us, 'Y'all are going to be the class that's going to do it,'" Sheppard said. "We've done some stuff that normal human beings don't do, and normal high school students don't do. When it snowed out here, we still came and lifted. When the lights cut off in the weight room, we still worked out. He pushed us to do great things and we did great things this past year. Hopefully next year, the guys will still have the confidence and know that they can play with anybody and do great things."

Peavey once again credited Sheppard as being a major force in the program turning itself around.

"The best thing that happened to our team was that he bought in first. Once Treyton bought in, the rest of them followed," Peavey said. "He just has a great relationship with the rest of the team. They all respect him and they all took his lead. He jumped in with both feet and didn't have any hesitation. We can't thank him enough for that because he was the guy that got everybody going."

Sheppard and the Rebels quietly started to put together their postseason resume during the first two months of the season, improving to 5-1 with a close 26-23 victory over Sonorville on Oct. 5.

With his younger brother Javen operating the controls at quarterback in Haralson's Wing-T attack, Treyton received a majority of the carries, managing to fall forward and fight for yards even with the defense loading as many as ten men in the box.

And after touchdowns, he'd put even more pressure on the opposing sideline by regularly converting two-point conversions.

For the senior running back, it was the following week's 24-22 road win over North Murray where they realized that their playoff dreams could become a reality.

"We knew going into that game that if we won, we'd have a pretty good chance of making it into the playoffs. Not that we were 100 percent in if we won that game, it just gave us so much confidence that we can be a great team and could compete with anybody that we played with," Sheppard said. "It was a fantastic environment after we won. They were bragging

FINAL GSWA PREP FOOTBALL POLL

Class AAAAAA 1. Milton 100 (10) 2. Colquitt County 90 3. Archer 80 4. Lowndes 66 5. Hillgrove 53 6. Grayson 52 7. Parkview 32 8. Tift County 29 9. North Gwinnett 27 10. Walton 10 Others receiving votes: McEachern 4, Roswell 3, Westlake 2, Norcross 1, Marietta 1.	10. Harrison 16 Others receiving votes: Creekside 3, Stephenson 2, Tucker 2, John's Creek 1, Habersham Central 1. Class AAAAA 1. Bainbridge 100 (10) 2. Warner Robins 89 3. Rome 76 4. Stockbridge 72 5. Buford 61 6. Dutchtown 44 7. Carrollton 33 8. Clarke Central 30 9. Wayne County 20 10. Kell 15 Others receiving votes: Ware County 4, Griffin 3, Jones County 2, SW DeKalb 1. Class AAAAA 1. Lee County 100 (10) 2. Northside-Warner Robins 90 3. Dacula 78 4. Lanier 64 5. Valdosta 52 6. Creekview 50 7. Sequoyah 39 8. Coffee 28 9. Allatoona 24	5. Mary Persons 56 6. Eastside 48 7. Cairo 37 8. Baldwin 21 9. St. Pius 16 10. Pickens 12 Others receiving votes: Burke County 8, Ridgeland 5, Flowery Branch 3, North Oconee 2, Woodward Academy 2, Thomson 1. Class AAA 1. Cedar Grove 100 (10) 2. Peach County 90 3. Calhoun 78 4. Pierce County 71 5. Monroe Area 52 6. Westminster 42 7. Benedictine 38 8. Jenkins 32 9. GAC 22 10. Dawson County 9 Others receiving votes: North Hall 5, Westside-Macon 3,	Jefferson 3, Liberty County 1. Class AA 1. Heard County 100 (10) 2. Rockmart 90 3. Fitzgerald 69 4. Callaway 66 5. Rabun County 51 6. Dublin 49 7. Washington County 42 8. Jefferson County 32 9. Brooks County 14 10. Hapeville Charter 11 Others receiving votes: Bremen 8, Dodge County 8, Swainsboro 2, Thomasville 1. Class A-Public 1. Clinch County 100 (10) 2. rwin County 90 3. Marion 77 4. Pelham 73 5. Commerce 56 6. Mount Zion-Carroll 48 7. Schley 37 8. Greene County 35	9. ECI 13 10. Mitchell County 11 Others receiving votes: Charlton County 3, Trion 2, Dooly County 2, Chattahoochie Co. 2, Montgomery County 1, Miller County 1. Class A-Private 1. ELCA 100 (10) 2. Athens Academy 90 3. Prince Avenue 71 4. Savannah Christian 66 5. Calvary Day 55 6. Fellowship Christian 47 7. North Cobb Christian 45 8. Darlington 33 9. Hebron Christian 10 10. Mount Paran 7 Others receiving votes: Brookstone 6, Wesleyan 5, Mount de Sales 4, Aquinas 3, Riverside Military 3, Tattnall Square 2, Mt. Vernon 1, George Walton 1, Christian Heritage 1.
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Nadav Soroker/Times-Georgian
Sophomore Taneska Kirk, pictured, and the Bowdon High School girls' basketball team caught fire early in the opening quarter and never looked back as they made quick work of Temple High School, 54-25, to punch a ticket to the tournament championship game on Saturday.

DAY 2

FROM PAGE B1

“I’ve been telling them all along that it’s not what we can do on the offensive end, it’s what we can do on the defensive end that’s going to create our points,” Bowdon head coach Jan Fendley said afterwards. “Disrupting their offense helped us get rolling.”

Despite the 29-point blow-out victory, the first-year Red and Black head coach thought the effort and energy from her ballclub could’ve been better.

“I didn’t think we played well. It was tough coming out of (Thursday)’s game and I thought we were a little slow

coming out of the gate,” Fendley said. “I was proud of them for being able to finish with that kind of lead. They turned it up when they needed to.”

Bowdon will once again match up with Central tonight at 6 p.m. for the Hilburn-Patterson Tournament Championship Game. The two teams have battled each other in a pair of one-score nail-biters this season, both resulting in Lady Lion victories.

Temple will battle Region 5-AA rival Heard County in the third-place game at 3 p.m.

Bowdon Boys 80, Donodon Christian 64: Clinging on to a 25-23 lead coming out of halftime, the Red Devils (9-3) cranked things up in the third quar-

ter with a sudden eight-point onslaught from junior forward Braden Bowen. Players like Kirequs Vaughn, Chris Parker and Cam Buchanan continued to rain down threes as Bowdon ended the quarter with a sizeable 56-38 advantage.

Head coach David Bramble talked about his team’s sudden surge in the third quarter.

“It started on the defensive end. I challenged them to put on a little bit more pressure and we got some turnovers,” Bramble said afterwards. “In transition, we got some threes, some layups and easy baskets.”

The Red Devils cruised their way to the 26-point victory, setting up a championship game showdown with

Central on Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

Bowdon fell to the Lions, 76-56, during last week’s SMI Carroll County Christmas Tournament and Coach Bramble cited defense as the key for his ballclub to produce a different outcome this time around.

“The biggest thing for us is we have to play defense for four quarters. Even (Friday), we had stretches where we didn’t play well on defense and you can’t do that against an athletic team like them because they’ll take advantage of that,” Bramble said. “We also can’t always rely on making shots, we have to get stops. Just four quarters of solid play on defense and see if you’re good enough on offense to beat them.”

REBEL

FROM PAGE B1

about how much they beat us by over the past two years and if that doesn’t make you mad about somebody beating you by so many points over two years, then I don’t know what will. Our guys went up there and got the job done.”

Regular rattling off incredible rushing performances behind the likes of all-region linemen D.J. Coffman and Beau Chaffin, Sheppard eventual carried his team to a coveted post-season berth before a late-season injury limited his effectiveness in Haralson’s 44-22 first-round exit at Dawson County.

Looking back on the year, the tailback once again downplayed his own success while hyping up the team’s and shared his excitement for what they have in store next year even in his absence.

“I just didn’t want

to look back on it during the season like, ‘Hey, I did this or did that during a game.’ It was great for the team and it gives the team next year confidence with the wins we had,” Sheppard said. “A lot of our linemen are coming back and they know I couldn’t have done any of this by myself. They’ve done a lot of the work so whoever’s the running back next year, they’ll have real great guys right in front of them. He’ll be really successful and hopefully he can do a lot better than I did and get the job done next year.”

According to his head coach, the running back showed his team-first attitude by insisting that he’d only attend a banquet sponsored by the Touchdown Club of Atlanta if every other Rebel offensive player went with him.

For Peavey, the days of Sheppard tearing up the field at Taylor Memorial Stadium may be over, but his impact

will resonate with future Haralson County classes.

“His legacy is the fact that he showed everybody how to work and how that hard work will pay off,” Peavey said. “Here’s a kid where one week during the season he ran for 425 yards and then the next Monday, he was in here working as hard as everybody if not harder and everybody thought that’s how it’s supposed to be. That’s why

that kid’s good. That example will live on as long as these kids continue to buy in. They’ll say ‘Hey, Treylon Sheppard did it and there’s no doubt that I need to do it.’”

As far as his future collegiate prospects go, NAIA Cumberland in Tennessee is one of the only programs that have shown interest in the Rebel running back at the moment.

He made clear that for whoever gives him the opportunity to play

at the next level, he’ll show the same heart and work ethic that made him a legend in Tallapoosa.

“If they come talk

to me and tell me that I have a chance to be on the team, that’s all I need,” Sheppard said. “Just one chance and an opportunity, that’s it.”

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The
carnival schedule
was on page 2.

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Times Georgian.
Told ya.