

# Baseball's Best Can the Braves win it all?

By LAMAR GARRARD  
Baseball historian



"One thing that I learned is this - once a Braves fan, always a Braves fan. No matter what. And as a player, that means more than you could understand. Tim Hudson, former Braves pitcher.

Well the Atlanta Braves, "America's Team," is heading down the stretch and the road has been bumpy. As I am writing this the National League East leader is out in front of the Phillies by 3.5 games. Ups and downs, win one lose one, hot streaks cold streaks and best of all still playing hard to win, describes some of characteristics of the Braves current season.

A team effort all year and players rising to the occasion has been an earmark of this 2021 Braves edition. Looking for bright spots, you do not have to look far to see one of the best infields in the majors and maybe one of the best in recent times. Batting average, power, speed and defense by the 4 if you leave out the catcher has been superb. Freeman at first has 30 home runs and is batting .297. Albies at second has 28 homers with a .258 batting average that includes 34 doubles and 94 RBIs. He also has a team leading 17 stolen bases. Shortstop has Swanson doing magic, popping 26 round trippers with a .258 batting average. His stellar defense has come forward play after play and game after game. Enough cannot be said about the 3rd sacker, Austin Riley. At 24 years old

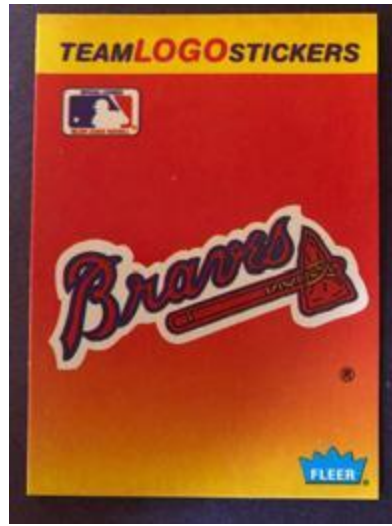
the solid Braves prospect has proven the truth in all the early scouting reports and accolades thrown his way. Powering 29 homers he leads the team regulars with a .298 average. His defense is a throw back look to former Braves at 3rd, Jones and Mathews.

Solid pitching has come from Morton, Fried and Anderson. Fried is batting .326! Ynoa could help us down the stretch. Jackson has fared well lately as has Chavez. Also Matzek has aided the wins in a few games and hopefully Toussaint can get hot as we finish the schedule. It will take some steady relief pitching to win the pennant and go to the World Series. I can hope!

The outfield of the Braves got some help when Jorge Soler stepped in after we lost All-Star outfielder, Ronald Acuna, with an ankle injury. Adam Duvall has produced in the clutch with 13 homers and 33 runs batted in. Rosario has helped when needed as has Joe Pederson.

The Braves also have two seasoned coaches at first and third with Eric Young, Sr. and Ron Washington. Good base coaching has been a positive this year for sure.

Braves attendance is now over 2 million hungry for a championship fans, second only to the Dodgers in all of the big leagues. With sixteen games left to play against the Giants, Diamondbacks, Padres, Phillies and the Mets, we have a chance. It's now



Fleer logo card.

or never and do not say to me: "Wait till next year."

As a side note, the main Augusta Library is featuring a baseball exhibit in the

"Georgia Room" on the 3rd floor running through October. It is entitled: "African American Baseball History and The Negro Leagues."



### Lincoln County Elementary School Breakfast Menu

Mon., Sept. 27 - Fri., Oct. 1

- Monday - Eggo mini pancakes, fruit.
  - Tuesday - Honey bun, fruit.
  - Wednesday - Poptart, yogurt, fruit.
  - Thursday - Steak biscuit, fruit.
  - Friday - Sausage biscuit, fruit.
- All breakfast menus include choice of milk, 100% fruit juice. Entrée options are: cereal bowl or cereal bar w/graham crackers. Menus subject to change due to availability.

### Lincoln County Middle/High School Breakfast Menu

Mon., Sept. 27 - Fri., Oct. 1

- Monday - Eggo mini pancakes, fruit.
  - Tuesday - Honey bun, fruit.
  - Wednesday - Cinnamon roll, fruit.
  - Thursday - Steak biscuit, fruit.
  - Friday - Sausage biscuit, fruit.
- All breakfast menus include choice of milk, 100% fruit juice. Menus subject to change due to availability.

### NOTICE

A called meeting of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners will be held on Friday, September 24, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. to consider the adoption of the proposed Fiscal Year 2022 General Fund and the Lincoln County Miscellaneous Funds budgets. The called meeting will be held in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Commissioners Conference Room, 210 Humphrey Street, Lincolnton, Georgia.

### EYE NEWS: Did you know?

Our Health Insurance covers medical expenses. But it is actually our *Supplement Insurance* that covers our *vision benefits* for eye exam refractions, contact lens fittings, glasses or contact lenses.

Our Vision is Your Vision. [www.LC-Optical.com](http://www.LC-Optical.com)  
For a limited time 20% OFF using current outside prescriptions.



**LINCOLNTON  
OPTICAL**  
706-359-2020

OPEN: MON. - FRI. & SAT. BY APPT.  
116 Main Street (next door to City Pharmacy)

# Across The Savannah

The Good Old Days are Gone

By TOM POLAND  
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Last Friday night some grandparents went to watch their grandson play in a high school football game. They were in for a shock. Paying for the old and reliable paper ticket had given way to paying online at a website and receiving an electronic ticket on their smartphone. They showed up at the gate and could not get in. Only after granddad bribed the young ticket taker to use her phone to order tickets did they get in.

Colleges use electronic tickets now and they're a hassle and ugly. The colorful old paper tickets were art and I kept them in a drawer. Intended to be cool, modern, and a convenience, electronic tickets are just the opposite. You have to download them to your phone, and if you want to give a ticket to a friend, you have to undergo an elaborate process involving emails and transfers. Want to sell a ticket to someone? Let me know how that works out. And what if your phone dies game day? Complicated—that's the way life is now.

Here's a photo for you. A rocking chair sits on a porch (remember those?) by an old milk can. Just beyond the porch stands a bell used to call farmhands to lunch. Today Farmer Bill probably sends a group text to his workers. What you don't see here is significant. You don't see plastic jugs of milk. You don't see phones. The old ways weren't fancy nor were they complicated but they worked.

The proliferation of electronic, aka digital ways, will continue. We'll be forced to websites more and more. I don't see any slow down in the use of plastic bottles, jugs, and containers of all kinds either. No wonder the ocean is full of plastic. Boys no longer walk high-way shoulders picking up glass drink bottles to put some change in their pocket. Look closely at the photograph and if your eye is keen you'll spot a plastic fork. How I wish fast food joints didn't pump out so much plastic, paper, and Styrofoam.

This modern world, ugh. I seldom see rockers on a front porch anymore. To see them I have to drive out into the country and travel the back roads and even there I seldom see porch sitters. I guess it's too hot to sit and rock anymore. Hide inside where air conditioning makes things tolerable and glue yourself to the TV, the propaganda box.

I'm a big college football fan. Back on January 11, 2021, after Alabama clobbered Ohio State for the national championship, I turned my TV off for 231 days. I didn't turn it on until August 30 and only then



A rocking chair sit sona porch by an old milk can. (Photo by Tom Poland.)

because I was ready to get the latest football news. YouTube TV no longer worked even though I had paid my bill month after month while not watching TV. The problem? YouTube TV no longer recognized my "device" because it had been inactive so long. I had to go online and input data and get a code to key into my TV account. Success, but it took a while. It sure wasn't a click of the remote. Things are cool, fast, and digital now but when they get haywire they make you want to cuss a blue streak.

And now, as further proof of how complicated life is, we have a new car/truck shortage due to the computer chip fiasco. I guess it's asking automakers too much to roll out cars and trucks without GPS, satellite radio, Bluetooth hands-free phone service, and engines governed by computers. I'm sure they cannot do that even if they want too, retooled as they are to the new

cool, digital ways.

Someday enough will be enough and I'll retreat to a mountain cabin far from the madding crowd. It'll have a porch with rocking chairs, and I concede that I'll be stuck using a smartphone, streaming TV service, and all that. I'll watch college football as always and I'll be using digital tickets in my phone's "wallet," but I'll always miss the old ways. But once football season ends, I'll turn my TV off. Once a week I'll turn it on for one minute just to let YouTube TV know I exist, that I've not experienced a digital death, that I have a drawer full of batteries to keep me alive. Then I'll cross that desert known as non-football season yet again.



### Lincoln County Elementary School Lunch Menu

Mon., Sept. 27 - Fri., Oct. 1

- Monday - Chicken fajitas w/onions & peppers, black beans, garden romaine salad, fruit.
- Tuesday - Turkey & cheese sandwich, lettuce & tomato, potato chips, raw veggies w/dip, apple-sauce.
- Wednesday - Chicken or steak nuggets, macaroni & cheese, hot rolls, seasoned green beans, fruit.
- Thursday - Spaghetti w/meat sauce, hot garlic breadstick, Italian garden salad, buttered corn, diced pears.
- Friday - Crispy chicken tenders or pizza, hot rolls, mashed potatoes, black-eyed peas, and fruit.

All meals include a choice of milk, 100% fruit juice. Entrée options are: pizza or peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Menus subject to change due to availability.

### Lincoln County Middle/High School Lunch Menu

Mon., Sept. 27 - Fri., Oct. 1

- Monday - Chicken fajitas w/onions & peppers, black bean fiesta, garden romaine salad, fruit.
- Tuesday - Turkey & cheese sandwich, lettuce & tomato, potato chips, raw veggies w/dip, peach crisp.
- Wednesday - Buffalo chicken chunks, macaroni & cheese, hot rolls, seasoned green beans, fruit.
- Thursday - Spaghetti w/meat sauce, hot garlic breadstick, Italian garden salad, buttered corn, baby carrots w/dip, diced pears.
- Friday - Crispy chicken tenders or pizza, hot rolls, mashed potatoes, black-eyed peas, and fruit.

All meals include a choice of milk, 100% fruit juice. Entrée options are: chef salad, pizza or peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Menus subject to change due to availability.

### Vaccine clinic

The East Central Public Health District has release its Covid-19 vaccination clinic hours of operation.

The Lincoln County Health Department will be providing COVID-19 vaccinations every Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. and every Friday from 9 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Residents can register online at [ECPHD.com/schedule-online](http://ECPHD.com/schedule-online). Walk-ins are welcome.

For more informatoin call 706-721-5800.

LCHD is located at 176 N. Peachtree St.

### City council meetings

The Lincolnton City Council meeting dates for 2021 are as follows: Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 7. All meetings are held at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

### Planning, zoning meetings

The City of Lincolnton Planning & Zoning Board meetings for 2021 are scheduled as follows: Sept. 28, Oct. 26, Nov. 30, Dec. 28. These meetings will be held in City Hall at 5:30 p.m. each month if there is an agenda.

### Celebrate Recovery Thursday

First Assembly of God hosts Celebrate Recovery every Thursday evening at 6:30 pm with a light meal followed by large group worship at 7 pm and small groups at 8 pm. First Assembly is located on the Thomson Highway. Call the church office at 359-7237 for more information.

### Board of Elections dates

The Lincoln County Board of Elections meetings are scheduled for September 23, October 28, November 18, and December 16, 2021. Meetings are subject to change. All meetings are open to the public. For more information call 706-359-6126.

# MULE DAY IS ON!

Let's celebrate our  
40th Annual Mule Day Festival together,  
Saturday, Oct. 9, at Callaway Plantation.  
Free admission - only \$10 to park.



Mule Day looks back at some of the heritage skills and crafts of early rural farm life while having fun and celebrating the original tractor, the mule.

Fun fact - at one time, Wilkes County was home to over 9000 mules!

At the festival, you'll find Fun Mule Show Classes & Demonstrations

- Sheep Dog Herding Demonstrations • Blacksmithing • Wood Working
- Live Music • Quilt Show • Sack Races • Corn Maze • Antique Tractors
- Turpentine Still • Western Wagons • Art & Craft Vendors • Festival Food.

Mule Day is the Washington-Wilkes Chamber of Commerce's annual fundraiser and has become a favorite time-honored tradition in our region.

It's made possible because of our generous sponsors and volunteers.

2021 Platinum Sponsors

F&M Bank, Farmers State Bank, & Palmer Equipment Co.

2021 Gold Sponsors

Berry Plastics, Court Street Livery, The Law Office of Sharon Jones,  
The News-Reporter, Rayle EMC, and WLOV

There's still time to become a sponsor or a vendor!

For information, contact the Chamber

706-678-2013 or [washingtonwilkeschamber@gmail.com](mailto:washingtonwilkeschamber@gmail.com)