

## THE 1990 GEORGIA BULLDOGS FOUND SUCCESS WITH A LITTLE LUCK AND A LOT OF HARD WORK

A dream. Maybe improbable, sometimes impossible, but then again...

Steve Webber's Georgia Bulldogs lived their dream of a national championship with a 2-1 victory over the Cowboys of Oklahoma State. The Bulldogs traveled the whole year on the backs of their senior leadership and a load of junior talent. So went the veterans, so went the team. For most of the year the ride was not only scenic but extremely successful and most joyous.

After awhile nothing was surprising. In fact, most of the desperate situations that Georgia incurred seemed to be accompanied with a readied solution. When the Dogs absolutely needed a hit, they got it. When they needed a run, they produced it. When an improbable comeback was necessary, you guessed it—they did it. Little did anyone know at the time, but a rude awakening would come later on at LSU where the Dogs would squander a one-game lead and see the SEC championship vanish.

But, before when get to the end of the party, let's go back in time when Georgia was dreaming of all the nice things (i.e. lots of wins, hits, runs, home runs, shut

outs, etc.) You're getting sleepy, sleepy...

We'll start at the beginning - or thereabouts. The Bulldogs welcomed back a cast of seasoned veterans and a crop of very talented freshmen to open the 1990 season.. It seemed to be a good mixture, one that would hopefully produce a large number of wins and, at the same time, a great deal of excitement.

Unfortunately the Dogs got off to a shaky 2-2 start on their "southern" trip to Jacksonville and Georgia Southern as they tried to find a set line-up. When Georgia finally returned home to what was supposed to be familiar territory, only this time Foley Field did not look so familiar or for that matter much of a field. A facelift on Foley was taking place. A brand new, \$3.5 million facility with all the comforts of home was just beginning to be built. It would include all of the luxuries, but for the time being the surroundings were foreign.

After dropping their home opener to Jacksonville 3-1, Georgia rolled off four consecutive victories, defeating JU, Georgia Southern and Wake Forest in the process. Superb pitching and 41 runs scored in those games were the difference. That's when things began to happen. After losing to Wake Forest in its next outing 13-8, Georgia hit its first stop on the way to dreamland. It came in the form of a 14-game win streak (the longest in modern-day Georgia history). The Bulldogs steamrolled everyone in their path as they scored 10 runs or more in eight of those contests and

out scored their opponents 135-48. It almost hit a point where the women and children were heading for cover. No one was safe.

After Georgia beat Kentucky in the first two games of their series, not only had the Bulldogs reached 14 straight victories but their record stood at 20-4 and 2-0 in the Southeastern Conference. From that point on, Georgia would be in at least a share of the SEC lead for every day of the season, except for the last two.

The streak finally snapped when the Cats beat the

Dogs 7-2. Maybe the winning streak had ended but shortly there after came a five-game win streak that pushed Georgia's record to 25-5 and a 5-1 mark in the SEC, thanks to a three-game sweep over visiting Auburn.

On the horizon was a three-game series at Vanderbilt. With the Dogs riding high, winning at least two games in Nashville did not seem like a tall order. After all, Georgia was playing well and, at the time, Vandy was not considered to be a real threat. Unfortunately Vanderbilt was prepared for Georgia. Not only did the Dores win the first two games, but they almost pulled out the third before falling 12-11.

After the trip to Nashville Georgia became hot again. Red Hot!

The Bulldogs strung together 12 straight wins, including eight straight SEC victories to raise their record to 39-8 and 14-4 in conference play. During this stretch they scored 10 or more runs in six of the 13 games. In doing so they were now in sole possession of first place in the conference.

Georgia started the streak off in good fashion by sweeping three games from visiting Tennessee and then defeating in-state rival Georgia Tech in a 9-8 thriller.

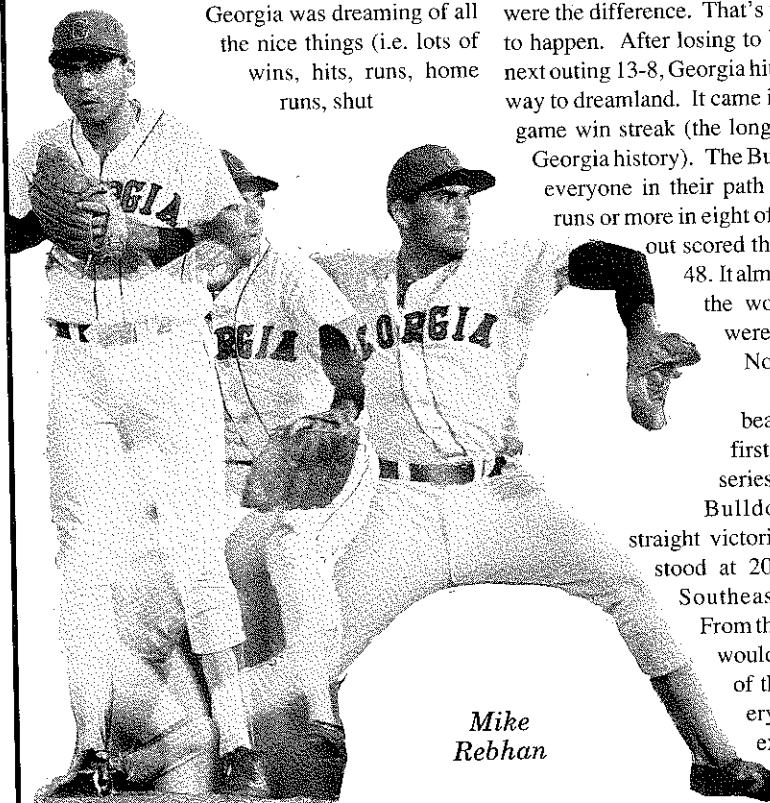
**"Only in your wildest dreams do you even dream about getting to the College World Series. But not even in my wildest dreams did I dream about winning the College World Series. Never."**

*- Designated Hitter Brian Jester*

Then, in what most first-hand observers call the most exciting regular-season series of the year, the Dogs swept the hosting Crimson Tide of Alabama. Each contest seemed to better the previous one.

Dave Fleming set Georgia off on the right foot with a 12 strikeout performance and a 9-2 win in Game 1. In Game 2 the Bulldogs trailed 3-1 before J.R. Showalter and Brian Jester hit back-to-back homers to tie the game. Jester then won the game with a two-out run-scoring single for the 4-3 victory. To top it all off was Game 3. The Bulldogs took a 5-0 lead in the first inning only to see the Tide score five in the second inning to tie the game. After falling behind 9-6, Georgia scored five runs in the ninth inning, highlighted by Jester's second homer of the game, a monstrous 430+ foot three-run shot to dead center field. Georgia came back from the dead two times to help produce yet another sweep.

The Dogs then returned home and won four of five games against Western Carolina and Florida, to up their record to 38-8 and 14-4 in the SEC. More importantly Georgia stayed in first place.



*Mike  
Rebhan*

The next SEC weekend found Georgia at Mississippi State to take on the SEC's other Bulldogs. What transpired on Saturday was something that is only dreamed about by a MSU opponent when they step foot on Dudy Noble Field. Georgia clubbed the host Bulldogs by the scores of 9-0 and 12-1 before 8,249 shocked spectators. Fleming shutout State for the first time in 177 games before Rebhan almost duplicated the feat, limiting MSU to one run on four hits in the nightcap. State turned the tables on UGA when they pounded the Red and Black 22-6 on Sunday. Even still, Georgia did what it set out to accomplish by winning at least a pair of games. With a 41-10 mark overall and a 16-5 slate in the SEC, Georgia was still on course to capture the regular season crown.

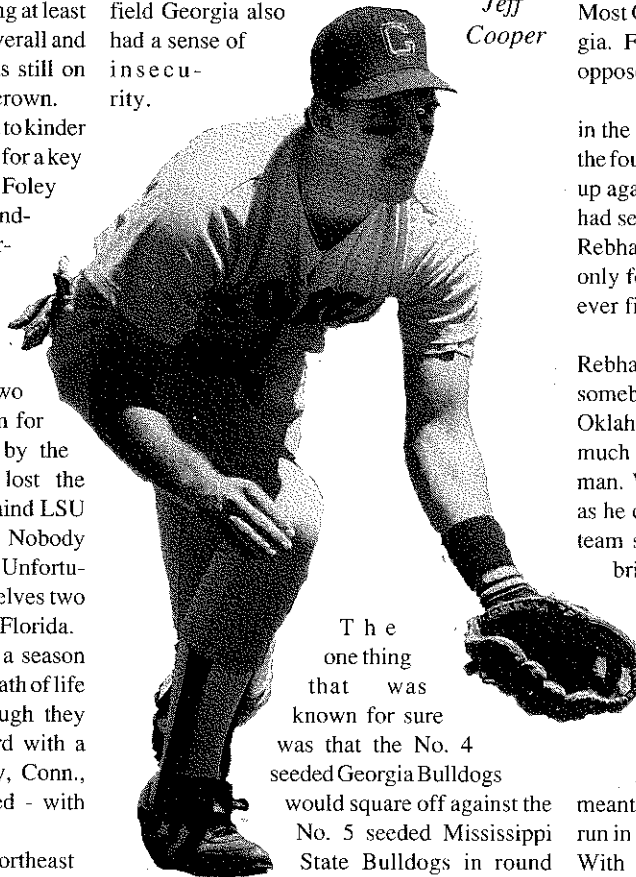
Georgia once again returned to kinder ground as Ole Miss traveled to Athens for a key match-up. With the new version of Foley Field set to be dedicated, spirits surrounding Georgia baseball were high. Georgia took two games from the Rebels to maintain its one-game lead over LSU, setting up a season-ending three-game series in Baton Rouge. In what would later be classified as the worst two weeks of the season and a bad dream for Georgia, the Bulldogs were swept by the Fightin' Tigers. In the process they lost the SEC title and finished two games behind LSU heading into the SEC Tournament. Nobody thought things could get any worse. Unfortunately they did. Georgia found themselves two games and out, losing to Vandy and Florida.

With the team's morale at a season low, only one thing could breathe a breath of life into the Bulldogs. Fortunately enough they were rewarded for their 44-17 record with a NCAA Tournament bid. Waterbury, Conn., beckoned and the Bulldogs answered - with force.

As the No. 2 seed in the Northeast Regional, Georgia knocked off Connecticut (7-2), Maine (6-3) and North Carolina (5-4) to advance to the finals as the sole unbeaten team in the double elimination tournament. The Dogs jumped on the backs of Fleming, Rebhan and Stan Payne as the three hurled Georgia towards a chance of making the College World Series for the second time in four years. Facing the Scarlet Knights of Rutgers, Georgia could not scrape up enough offense in a 4-3 loss, setting up a second meeting between the two. After falling behind 6-3 heading into the fourth inning, the Bulldogs of old arrived at the ball yard. First came a six-run outbreak in the fourth inning. That was followed by a four-run fifth inning and a five-run barrage in the sixth inning. Before you could say "we're going to Omaha"

the game was over and Georgia was the king of the Northeast with a 20-9 victory. The Dogs pounded out 17 hits in the finale, including five extra-base hits. The senior leadership reappeared - and so did the Bulldogs. Three days later Omaha welcomed the Dogs with open arms.

With familiar foes LSU, Mississippi State and Georgia Southern joining them, the Bulldogs entered the CWS with a feeling of familiarity. With Oklahoma State, Stanford, The Citadel and Cal-State Fullerton rounding out the field Georgia also had a sense of insecurity.



Jeff  
Cooper

The one thing that was known for sure was that the No. 4 seeded Georgia Bulldogs would square off against the No. 5 seeded Mississippi State Bulldogs in round one. Fleming proceeded to shutout MSU for the second straight time by the count of 3-0. The win moved UGA into the winner's bracket against No. 1 Stanford.

Trailing 2-0 heading into the fifth inning, Georgia was being manhandled by future first-round draft pick Mike Mussina. The right-hander registered nine Ks in the first five innings. Five of those strikeouts were the first five batters he faced. If the old adage of "the strength of the dog is in the pack" is true, it was never more evident than in the sixth inning. The whole pack showed up - with a few of its friends. Georgia banged out 11 hits and posted 11 runs in the inning to take control. At one point during the burst the Dogs smacked six

consecutive base hits. The onslaught produced a 16-2 win, thanks in part to the 19 hits that Georgia chalked up. Of those 19, every starter contributed at least one hit. Georgia stood as the lone undefeated team in its bracket.

After Stanford beat Mississippi State, the re-match was set. This time Georgia would not be so fortunate. Freshman Brian Sakinski shut down the Bulldogs on six hits to help the Cardinal to a 4-2 win. That kept Stanford alive and forced a third game between the teams to see who would advance to the CWS final. Rebhan, who would later be named the series' Most Outstanding Player, got the call for Georgia. For the second game straight he would be opposed by Mussina.

The Cardinal jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the second inning. That would hold up until the fourth inning when the pack of Dogs showed up again. Five hits and four runs later Georgia had sent Mussina and Stanford to the showers. Rebhan cruised the rest of the way, allowing only four hits as Georgia advanced to its first-ever final game with a 5-1 win.

Having used only Fleming and Rebhan the entire CWS, Webber felt he needed somebody to step in against a heavy-hitting Oklahoma State team and give his two aces a much needed break. This time Payne was the man. With the plan of going as long and as hard as he could, Webber wanted Payne to give his team some quality innings early on and then bring in Fleming and Rebhan if needed.

Payne, who earlier in the day proclaimed it was a great morning to go fishing, hauled in the biggest catch of his life later in the day. He pitched the first six innings, scattering four hits and one run before yielding to Fleming in the seventh. In the meantime, his teammates had pushed across a run in the fourth and fifth innings for a 2-1 lead. With Fleming now on the mound, Georgia could not have asked for anything more. A one-run lead and an All-America selection doing the hurling seemed to sit pretty well with the Bulldog backers.

With 16,482 spectators on their feet, Fleming struck out the side in the ninth inning to give Georgia its first-ever national championship in baseball. The dream had become reality. The year saw 22 guys pull together and prove, once and for all, that the strength of the "Dawg" is, indeed, in the pack!

1990 FINAL STATS

1990 STATISTICS

Record:52-19

Home:31-4

Road:13-11

Neutral:8-4

HITTING

FIELDING

PLAYER	BA	G/GS	AB	R	H	RBI	2B	3B	HR	SB/SBA	BB	SO	HBP	S/SF	TB/SLUG%	ON BASE PCT.	GWH	FIELDING		
																		PO	A	FLDG. E PCT.
Ray Kirschner, rhp	.600	5/0	5	4	3	3	0	0	1	0/0	3	1	0	0/0	6/1.200	.750	0	2	6	1 .889
Brian Jester, 1b/dh	.364	54/53	198	50	72	64	11	0	17	3/4	35	38	5	0/1	134/.667	.469	6	90	3 1 .989	
J.R. Showalter, ss	.341	71/71	276	75	94	74	21	3	14	0/1	47	42	1	0/6	163/.591	.432	7	114	228 17 .953	
Tracy Wildes, dh/rhp	.328	40/28	119	26	39	33	11	2	6	0/0	11	24	1	0/1	72/.605	.402	5	2	12 2 .875	
Jeff Cooper, 3b	.314	71/70	271	71	85	59	16	0	13	4/9	43	50	3	0/8	140/.517	.404	7	48	159 19 .916	
Doug Radziewicz, If	.313	70/70	262	65	82	44	16	0	8	5/7	38	28	3	1/2	122/.466	.397	4	550	34 4 .993	
Ray Suplee, If	.308	68/67	240	43	74	49	13	1	8	5/6	26	41	5	1/4	113/.471	.384	4	92	6 7 .933	
Tommy Owen, c	.303	34/23	66	12	20	14	0	0	0	0/0	17	14	2	2/2	20/.303	.448	0	106	15 4 .968	
Bruce Chick, rf	.302	70/70	281	59	85	65	24	1	12	6/11	24	28	0	0/4	147/.523	.356	4	138	6 5 .966	
McKay Smith, cf	.292	71/71	298	67	87	36	20	2	4	4/7	35	48	10	4/0	123/.413	.387	1	175	4 4 .978	
Joey Alfonso, 2b	.260	69/66	223	53	58	29	12	2	0	9/11	27	37	0	4/2	74/.332	.333	2	165	173 10 .971	
Terry Childers, c	.208	53/47	168	23	35	23	8	0	3	1/1	8	43	5	7/0	52/.310	.265	2	317	35 2 .994	
Dave Perno, 2b	.167	20/3	24	4	4	2	1	0	0	0/1	4	10	0	0/0	5/.208	.296	0	11	14 2 .926	
J.P. Stewart	.000	1/0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0/0	0	0	0	0/0	0/.000	.000	0	0	0 1 .000	
Georgia	.304	71/71	2431	552	738	494	153	11	86	37/58	318	404	35	19/30	1171/.482	.399	42	1833	786 86 .968	
Opponent Totals	.268	71/71	2344	333	629	295	100	5	53	57/79	245	430	22	26/17	898/.383	.339	16	1770	765 113 .957	

PITCHING

FIELDING

PITCHER	ERA	G/GS	W	L	SAVE	CG	SHO	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	IBB	HB	WP	BK	2B	3B	HR	AV/BAVG.	FIELDING		
																						PO	A	FLDG. E PCT.
Dave Fleming, lhp	2.86	21/19	12	6	2	13	2	160.3	134	63	51	55	163	3	8	6	0	19	2	6	591/.227	9	40	2 .961
Mike Rebhan, rhp	3.01	22/18	13	5	1	9	1	137.7	131	61	46	47	92	0	1	5	1	14	1	14	528/.248	5	23	3 .903
Ray Kirschner, rhp	4.06	17/0	4	0	0	1	0	31.0	29	16	14	16	18	0	0	2	0	4	0	4	114/.254	2	6	1 .889
Stan Payne, lhp	4.24	19/8	7	1	4	3	1	68.0	73	37	32	12	43	0	2	3	1	10	0	8	267/.273	2	4	0 1.000
Joe Kelly, lhp	4.54	11/4	1	0	1	0	0	35.7	43	24	18	18	19	0	2	2	0	9	1	1	144/.299	2	6	1 .889
Joe Bodvake, lhp	4.70	9/0	0	1	1	0	0	7.7	7	5	4	8	6	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	24/.292	0	1	0 1.000
Tom Zdanowicz, rhp	5.29	17/12	4	3	0	2	0	66.3	78	46	39	41	35	1	5	6	1	17	0	5	260/.300	3	10	1 .929
Tracy Wildes, dh/rhp	5.90	18/6	5	3	2	1	0	61.0	74	43	40	23	37	0	2	2	1	16	1	11	240/.308	2	12	2 .875
Matt Hoitsma, rhp	6.81	12/4	6	0	0	0	0	39.7	55	30	30	19	13	1	1	4	0	9	0	3	160/.344	2	6	0 1.000
Kendall Rhine, rhp	17.18	4/0	0	0	0	0	0	3.7	5	8	7	6	4	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	16/.313	0	1	0 1.000
Georgia	4.14	71/71	52	19	12	28	4	611.0	629	333	281	245	430	5	22	31	4	100	5	53	2344/.268	See above totals		
Opponent Totals	7.32	71/71	19	52	3	13	0	590.0	738	552	480	318	404	5	35	66	4	153	11	86	2431/.304			

SCORE BY INNINGS

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	EXTRA	TOTALS	DOUBLE PLAYS	LEFT ON BASE
Georgia	91	49	47	62	71	86	56	60	23	7	552	85	509
Opponents Totals	30	50	22	45	53	28	42	52	10	1	333	66	485

OVERALL TEAM RECORD

Southeastern	52-19-0	CUMULATIVE ATTENDANCE	164058	HOME	24751	AWAY	139307
SEC Tournament	18-9-0	TOTAL AVERAGE ATTENDANCE	2311	HOME AVG.	707	AWAY AVG.	3870
NCAA Northwest Regional	0-2-0						
College World Series	4-1-0						
	4-1-0						

# 1990 ROSTER

## Alphabetical

NO.	NAME	POS	B-T	HT	WT	CL-EXP	HOMETOWN (High School or JC)
6	Alfonso, Joey	2B	S-R	5-9	150	SR-1L	Bishop, GA (Oconee County HS)
26	Bodvake, Joe	P	L-L	6-0	205	JR-TR	Canonsburg, PA (Crowder College)
19	Chick, Bruce	OF	R-R	6-4	210	JR-2L	St. Petersburg, FL (St. Petersburg HS)
5	Childers, Terry	C	R-R	6-2	185	SO-1L	Augusta, GA (Westside HS)
11	Cooper, Jeff	3B	R-R	6-0	185	SR-3L	Gainesville, GA (East Hall HS)
20	DeBlasi, Steve	P	R-R	6-1	180	SO-SQ	Holmdel, NJ (Holmdel HS)
16	Fleming, Dave	P	L-L	6-3	210	JR-2L	Mahopac, NY (Mahopac HS)
30	Haynes, Mickey	P	R-R	5-11	185	FR-HS	Lilburn, GA (Brookwood HS)
23	Hoitsma, Matt	P	L-R	6-1	190	SR-2L	Wayne, NJ (Wayne Valley HS)
33	Jester, Brian	1B	R-R	6-1	215	SR-3L	Endicott, NY (Union-Endicott HS)
7	Kelly, Joe	P	L-L	6-0	185	SR-3L	Whitesboro, NY (Utica-Notre Dame HS)
14	Kirschner, Ray	P/OF	L-R	6-2	170	SR-1L	Brooklawn, NJ (Camden County College)
3	Norris, Don	IF	R-R	5-9	170	JR-TR	Lakeland, FL (Polk CC)
21	Owen, Tommy	C	R-R	6-0	195	JR-TR	Edison, GA (George C. Wallace CC)
36	Payne, Stan	P	R-L	6-3	195	FR-HS	Athens, GA (Clarke Central HS)
4	Perno, Dave	2B	L-R	5-8	170	JR-1L	Athens, GA (Middle Georgia College)
32	Radziewicz, Doug	1B/OF	L-L	6-1	195	JR-2L	Somerville, NJ (Somerville HS)
31	Rebhan, Michael	P	R-R	6-0	195	SR-1L	Melbourne, FL (Lake City CC)
29	Rhine, Kendall	P	R-R	6-6	190	FR-HS	Lilburn, GA (Parkview HS)
8	Showalter, J.R.	SS	R-R	6-0	175	JR-2L	Sarasota, FL (Sarasota HS)
9	Smith, McKay	OF	L-R	6-2	195	SR-3L	Glen Ellyn, IL (Glenbard West HS)
12	Stewart, J.P.	C	R-R	5-9	185	FR-SQ	Fayetteville, GA (Woodward Academy)
18	Suplee, Ray	OF	R-R	6-2	190	FR-HS	Sarasota, FL (Sarasota HS)
25	Wildes, Tracy	P	R-R	6-1	210	FR-HS	Jacksonville, FL (Sandalwoods HS)
22	Zdanowicz, Tom	P	R-R	6-2	200	JR-TR	Maple Heights, OH (Cuyahoga CC)

## Numerical

2	Greg Appleton, Assistant Coach	20	Steve DeBlasi, P
3	Don Norris, INF	21	Tommy Owen, C
4	Dave Perno, 2B	22	Tom Zdanowicz, P
5	Terry Childers, C	23	Matt Hoitsma, P
6	Joey Alfonso, 2B	25	Tracy Wildes, P
7	Joe Kelly, P	26	Joe Bodvake, P
8	J.R. Showalter, SS	27	Steve Webber, Head Coach
9	McKay Smith, OF	28	Jim Bagnall, Assistant Coach
11	Jeff Cooper, 3B	29	Kendall Rhine, P
12	J.P. Stewart, P	30	Mickey Haynes, P
14	Ray Kirschner, OF-P	31	Michael Rebhan, P
15	Mike Hawkins, Student Assistant Coach	32	Doug Radziewicz, 1B
16	Dave Fleming, P	33	Brian Jester, DH-1B
18	Ray Suplee, OF	36	Stan Payne, P
19	Bruce Chick, OF		

### PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Bodvake	BOD-vick
DeBlasi	duh-BLAWZ-ee
Hoitsma	HOYTS-muh
Kirschner	KIRSH-ner
Rebhan	REE-bun
Radziewicz	ruh-JEV-its
Suplee	su-PLÉE
Wildes	Wilds
Zdanowicz	ZZAN-oh-vee-its

### WHERE THEY'RE FROM

Florida	6
Georgia	9
Illinois	1
New Jersey	4
New York	3
Ohio	1
Pennsylvania	1