

# Baseball

## A Season of Highs and Lows For the Bulldogs In 2015



### Bulldogs Endure Highs And Lows

Georgia finished the 2015 season with a 26-28 overall mark (10-19 in the SEC) and did not advance to the postseason. Georgia did post its first SEC road sweep since 2009 when it won three over Tennessee and then followed that up by claiming its first SEC series at South Carolina since 1994. The highlights in non-conference action included winning a series over No. 11 Florida State, sweeping a two-game set from Clemson for the first time since 2009 and tossing a one-hit shutout of Georgia Tech at Turner Field.

Overall, Georgia batted .267 with 40 home runs and 63 stolen bases while posting a 3.96 ERA and a .970 fielding percentage.

Georgia set a school record by holding teams to a .243 batting average, the previous best was .251 in 1973. Also, the Bulldog bullpen allowed just one earned run over the final 29.2 innings pitched.

For a month during the season, Georgia was without its No. 1 starter (**Robert Tyler**) and No. 3 starter (**David Sosebee**) plus two relievers (**Taylor Hicks** and **Drew Moody**) due to injuries.

### Bulldogs Blank Tech In Front Of Season High Crowd in Atlanta

On May 12th, Georgia combined on a one-hit shutout of rival Ga. Tech at Turner Field in front of the largest crowd to see a college baseball regular season game in 2015 as 18,792 attended the 13th annual Spring Baseball Classic for Kids. The game benefits Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

Senior **Jared Walsh** pitched the first five innings and allowed one single with a walk and six strikeouts while the bullpen of **Mike Mancuso**, **Bo Tucker**, **Taylor Hicks** and **Jared Cheek** preserved the shutout.

Junior **Daniel Nichols** went 3-for-4 with a home run and career-high 5 RBI to pace the offense while Walsh, who also served as the designated hitter, went 2-for-4 with a double and a scored a run.

### Wrenn Earns Beckham MVP Award

Sophomore center fielder **Stephen Wrenn** (.324-8-28) led the team in batting, runs scored, hits, home runs and stolen bases to earn the Gordon Beckham Team MVP award. He reached base safely in 51 of 54 games including the first 38 contests in 2015.

Wrenn ranked as one of the top defensive centerfielders in the SEC. He ended the regular season with the second most stolen bases in the league with 28, the most by Bulldog since a record 31 by Chaz Lytle in 2002.

The other annual team awards went to the following: Junior **David Sosebee** earned the Jim Umbricht Award as the "most competitive" Bulldog. **Keegan McGovern** received the Bert Kizer Award, which goes to the first-year letterman who excels on the field and in the classroom.

The Scholar-Athlete Award for the player with the highest GPA went to senior **Taylor Hicks**.

The Jim Whatley Captain's Award for the team captains went to seniors **Jared Walsh** and **Brandon Stephens**.

### Walsh and Stephens Cap Career With Strong Senior Season

Georgia's top pitcher in 2015 was two-way standout senior co-captain **Jared Walsh**. He went

5-2 with a 2.60 ERA in 14 appearances including eight starts while batting .306-3-22 in 43 games including 41 starts as either a DH/1B/OF. Walsh's 2.60 ERA was the lowest by a Bulldog pitcher with at least 55 innings since 2004 when Will Startup posted a 2.22 mark.

For his career, Walsh went 8-7 with a 3.18 ERA and 3 saves in 35 appearances including 16 starts. At the plate, he batted .271-7-58 in 139 games including 116 starts.

Stephens posted his best season as a Bulldog in 2015, batting .291-1-13 and posted a .997 fielding percentage. For his career, Stephens batted .265-2-39 in 181 games including 129 starts.

### 400 Plus And Counting

Head coach **Scott Stricklin** notched his 400th career win in Georgia's series-clinching road victory over Kentucky on May 10th.

### SEC Honors

Outfielder **Keegan McGovern** was named to the Freshmen All-SEC team. He appeared in 48 games with 43 starts in left field. McGovern batted .268 with nine doubles, three home runs and 17 RBI plus posted a perfect fielding percentage in 68 total chances.

For the second straight year, junior RHP **Mike Mancuso** earned a spot on the SEC Community Service team for his efforts off the field.

Eight Bulldogs made the SEC Academic Spring Honor Roll: **Taylor Hicks**, **Connor Jones**, **Ryan Lawlor**, **Sean McLaughlin**, **Brandon Stephens**, **Austin Wallace**, **Zach Waters** and **Stephen Wrenn**.

Three Bulldogs made the SEC First-Year Academic Honor Roll: **Trey Logan**, **Keegan McGovern** and **Mitchell Webb**.

### National Honors

Pitcher **Robert Tyler** played for the USA Baseball Summer Collegiate National Team and went 3-0 with a 1.00 ERA. The team went 9-8, and Tyler clinched the series against Cuba in front of a sellout crowd on July 4 at BB&T Ballpark in Charlotte, N.C.

### Bulldogs In The MLB Draft

Georgia had seven players selected in the 2015 MLB draft, which marked the most since 2011 when seven heard their name called. The Bulldogs drafted in 2015 included: **Ryan Lawlor** (LHP, 8th round, Atlanta), **Sean McLaughlin** (RHP, 19th round, Atlanta), **Jared Cheek** (RHP, 21st round, Chicago Cubs), **Zack Bowers** (C, 24th round, San Francisco), **Taylor Hicks** (RHP, 26th round, Detroit), **David Sosebee** (RHP, 28th round, New York Yankees) and **Jared Walsh** (1B, 39th round, Los Angeles Angels).

With three seniors among this year's selections, the Bulldogs extended their string to 43 straight seasons with at least one current player signing a professional contract.

**FINAL RECORD: Overall: 26-28; SEC: 10-19 (7th East)**

**Home: 16-16; Away: 9-12; Neutral: 1-0; Vs. Top 25: 6-11**

### 2015 RESULTS (26-28)

Home: 16-16; Away: 9-12; Neutral: 1-0; Vs. Top 25: 6-11

Date	Opponent	Time/Res.	Rec. (SEC)
Feb. 13	Eastern Illinois (+)	W, 18-3	1-0
Feb. 14	Eastern Illinois (+)	W, 10-2	2-0
Feb. 15	Eastern Illinois (+)	W, 11-1	3-0
Feb. 20	#11 Fla. State (+)	L, 7-5	3-1
Feb. 21	#11 Fla. State	W, 4-1	4-1
Feb. 21	#11 Fla. State (SECN)	W, 10-5	5-1
Feb. 24	Presbyterian (+)	W, 3-0	6-1
Feb. 27	@ Ga. Southern (ESPN3)	L, 4-3	6-2
Feb. 28	@ Ga. Southern (ESPN3)	L, 1-0	6-3
March 1	@ Ga. Southern (ESPN3)	L, 4-3	6-4
March 3	Furman (+)	W, 5-3	7-4
March 4	Georgia St. (+)	W, 4-2	8-4
March 6	Longwood (+)	L, 7-3	8-5
March 7	Longwood (+)	W, 8-7	9-5
March 8	Longwood (+)	W, 15-4	10-5
March 10	Appalachian St. (+)	W, 6-3	11-5
March 11	Appalachian St. (+)	W, 4-0	12-5
March 14	*Missouri (+)	L, 5-1	12-6 (0-1)
March 14	*Missouri	L, 8-4 (10)	12-7 (0-2)
March 15	*Missouri (+)	L, 6-0	12-8 (0-3)
March 17	@ Mercer (SCDN)	L, 16-4	12-9
March 20	@ *Tennessee	W, 2-1	13-9 (3-3)
March 21	@ *Tennessee (+)	W, 12-7	14-9 (2-3)
March 22	@ *Tennessee (+)	W, 10-4	15-9 (3-3)
March 24	Mercer (+)	L, 12-8	15-10
March 25	Kennesaw St. (+)	W, 9-5	16-10
March 27	@ #8 *S. Carolina (+)	W, 6-5 (11)	17-10 (4-3)
March 28	@ #8 *S. Carolina (+)	W, 4-3	18-10 (5-3)
March 29	@ #8 *S. Carolina (+)	L, 8-5	18-11 (5-4)
March 31	Ga. Tech (SECN)	L, 13-6	18-12
April 3	#1 *Vanderbilt (+)	L, 9-7	18-13 (5-5)
April 4	#1 *Vanderbilt (+)	L, 11-7	18-14 (5-6)
April 5	#1 *Vanderbilt (SECN)	L, 4-2	18-15 (5-7)
April 7	@ Clemson	W, 3-2	19-15
April 10	@ **Alabama (+)	L, 7-6 (11)	19-16 (5-8)
April 11	@ **Alabama (+)	W, 8-1	20-16 (6-8)
April 12	@ **Alabama (+)	L, 5-2	20-17 (6-9)
April 14	@ #24 Ga. Tech	Rainout	
April 15	@ Kennesaw St.	L, 2-1	20-18
April 18	#2 *LSU (+)	L, 4-1	20-19 (6-10)
April 18	#2 *LSU (+)	L, 9-1	20-20 (6-11)
April 19	#2 *LSU (+)	Rainout	
April 21	Clemson (SECN)	W, 7-0	21-20
April 23	@ *Auburn (SECN)	L, 4-2	21-21 (6-12)
April 24	@ *Auburn (SECN)	L, 5-1	21-22 (6-13)
April 25	@ *Auburn (SECN)	L, 4-1	21-23 (6-14)
May 1	#8 *Florida (+)	W, 11-1	22-23 (7-14)
May 2	#8 *Florida (ESPNU)	L, 3-2	22-24 (7-15)
May 3	#8 *Florida (+)	L, 7-4	22-25 (7-16)
May 8	@ *Kentucky (+)	L, 6-2	22-26 (7-17)
May 9	@ *Kentucky (+)	W, 12-3	23-26 (8-17)
May 10	@ *Kentucky (SECN)	W, 6-1(10)	24-26 (9-17)
May 12	vs. %Ga. Tech (FSS)	W, 6-0	25-26
May 14	#20 *Arkansas (+)	W, 10-1	26-26 (10-17)
May 15	#20 *Arkansas (+)	L, 9-0	26-27 (10-18)
May 16	#20 *Arkansas (+)	L, 8-1	26-28 (10-19)

Home games in bold; #Highest national ranking among the five polls when played; += SEC Network Plus; SECN= SEC Network; SCDN=SoCon Digital Network; FSS = Fox Sport South; \*SEC games; \*Hoover, Met, Hoover, Ala.; %Turner Field, Atlanta, Ga.