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## Baseball Picks Up Pair of Wins on Opening Day



*Photo Courtesy UWG Athletics*

**By Amber Bell**  
*Contributing Writer*

The UWG baseball team gets the season started with two big wins on Feb. 1 at Cole Field against Eckerd College. Taylor Boisclair got the start for game one, leading the team for 4.1 innings, facing 18 batters and only allowing two earned runs on five hits. The senior out of Alto, GA, was scoreless for the first four innings allowing the Wolves to build a 3-0 lead.

Dan Oberst drove in the first run of the season after back-to-back walks put runners on base in the first inning. Jermond Williams and Oberst led the offense with a few big at bats resulting in the teams first home runs of the season. Oberst went deep into right field in the sixth, Williams followed that up with a blast to center field in the seventh. "I was really just looking for something good to hit," said Williams after a three RBI night. "These last few weeks I've just been working on staying on pack, waiting for good pitches.

He gave me a good pitch and I just went with it." Tyler Garner took the mound in the bottom of the fifth to ease a rally with the bases loaded, forcing a double play ending the inning. Garner stayed on the mound for 2.2 innings, only giving up one earned run on two hits. C.J. Fehriback came in during the 8th for a single out, and stayed to close out the game, only giving up one run. Fehriback picked up the save and Garner received the win.

Offensively the Wolves dominated with big hits and smart base running. Williams put up three RBI, Oberst, Colin Moore, and Brody Wortham each contributed with two RBI each. Brady Barnes and Jason Fointno each drove in a run as well. Game one ended with the wolves winning 12-5. Junior Robert Coleman got the start for game two, battling through five innings, with Eckerd scoring three times in the first three innings. Dylan Johnson blasted his first homerun of the season, with Joseph Hill and Fointno putting

in two more RBIs to tie the game up. Eckerd fired back with a single run being scored on reliever Ryan Parker, regaining the lead from UWG. In the bottom of the 6th, Fointno, Wortham, and McCrae rallied to help the Wolves take the lead 6-4, which gave them confidence leading into the last innings.

Sawyer Steele came in to close out the final inning, shutting down Eckerd with no hitters reaching base. Steele gained his first save of the season and Parker picked up the win for his efforts in the 6th. Game two ended with the Wolves winning 6-4. "Eckerd is a very good baseball team," said Head Coach Jeff Smith. "They were in a regional last year. It was a tough day because of the weather, but we did what we needed to do and got two wins." This was Smith's official debut as UWG baseball's head coach. The team hopes to improve this week throughout practice and carry their confidence of opening weekend into the rest of the season.

Dude Looks Like a Really Old Lady

By Mason Ayers  
Contributing Writer

An aging rock band clings onto their youth, the lead singer’s luscious locks have turned into gray coils, drummer’s shoulders have become an arthritic mess and lead guitarist looks like a skeleton from a Tim Burton film. Don’t get me wrong, I love Aerosmith as much as the next guy. Heck, I probably love Aerosmith more than the next guy, but it’s time to put their jersey in the rafters and hang it up there for good. I might be jaded, but you’re the one that jaded me, remember? In fairness, Steven Tyler’s hair is still pretty great. The same can’t be said for the rest of the band. But, hey, all good things come to an end eventually. Dwyane Wade’s knees, Peyton Manning’s right shoulder and Steven Tyler’s voice all have one thing in common. The once illustrious talent has become so creaky an oil change couldn’t save it. Someone please put Joe Perry out

of his misery. Every time we see him, he sends a disgusted scowl Steven’s way. Perry’s ears can no longer take the yelping, or maybe he simply can’t hear anymore. Someone should get Joey his hearing aid for crying out loud. It’s kind of hard to perform “Eat the Rich” when you have an estimated net worth of \$130 million. However, let’s be clear. Aerosmith are rock n roll gods. With 66.5 million records sold, Aerosmith is No. 13 on the all-time records sold list. “I Don’t Wanna Miss a Thing,” “Dream On,” “Walk This Way,” “Sweet Emotion” and “Come Together” are genre spanning hit records. From the Aerosmith self-titled album to “Get Your Wings,” “Toys in the Attic,” “Rocks,” “Pump” and “Get a Grip,” Aerosmith has delivered a discography great enough to stand toe to toe with anyone’s favorite artist. Aerosmith has made music so timeless that modern chart top



Photo Courtesy Norman Seef

pers such as Post Malone consider them their idols, and some young people still rock out to the oldies. “I’ll rock til I drop,” once said a young Tyler. However, it could be argued that this shared idea among many old rock stars has hurt the genre from growing into the modern forefront. Rock used to be for the kids. Rock was for the young adults who wanted to have a good time. The old “drugs, sex and rock n roll” turned into “sobriety, Viagra, and mid-life crisis.” Why is Steven still taking his shirt off and humping speaker boxes at 71 years old? Rock was once considered a young man’s game. Now, rock has become an old man’s game, and therefore it has left the consciousness

of the modern mainstream audience. Hip hop took over and rock, well, rocked in a rocking chair while reading bedtime stories to the grandkids. However, it could also be argued that old R&B and soul singers aren’t told to hang it up, so why should Aerosmith and other rock bands? If no one takes the mic from the legend Miss Patti Labelle or Gladys Knight, then why take it from Aerosmith? Well, soul music died too. This doesn’t mean it no longer exists, but name five new soul acts that are culturally relevant and topping the charts. You can’t. While older acts are still loved and respected, they are loved for who they used to be.

‘Just Mercy’ Film Review



Image Courtesy of IMDb

By Cynthia Harris  
Contributing Writer

Many films about the historical practice of racism have hit the silver screens but what makes Just Mercy stand out by itself is its dedication to getting the stories of its characters historically accurate and evoking raw emotion from the viewers. Just Mercy stars Michael

B. Jordan as Stevenson and Jamie Foxx as McMillian, and the performances given by each are stellar. They both deliver emotional, passionate performances and play beautifully off of one another. They are rounded out by an equally fantastic supporting cast that includes Brie Larson, O’Shea Jackson Jr, and Rob Morgan. Just Mercy tells the true

story of Bryan Stevenson, a young Harvard graduate student who wanted to help the less fortunate. Despite the many opportunities he had up north, he decided to go down to Alabama to provide legal defense for death row inmates that were wrongly convicted and in need of new trials. He met Walter “Johnny D” McMillian, who had been on death row for six years after being wrongly convicted of killing a young white woman in 1987. After he reviewed McMillian’s trial, Steveson signed on as his lawyer to try to get him off death row. Despite ample evidence that showcased McMillian’s innocence, Stevenson quickly realized that obtaining justice for him was easier said than done. Never for a moment in the film is the viewer given any leverage to feel any kind of indifference or nonchalance. Throughout every part of the movie, there was always something that commanded the audience’s attention. Going in with basic knowledge about racism and its practice in legal situations, I expected to be emotional. However, by the end of Just

Mercy, it felt as though I had been through a whirlwind of all kinds of emotions. I felt anger that a man had to endure so much just because of the color of his skin. I also felt disgust at the fact the legal system was willing to fight tooth and nail to keep him there without hearing anyone out. But most of all I had to say I left feeling inspired, inspired to keep moving and never be afraid to fight or go the distance, very much like Stevenson never gave up on his mission to help McMillian. This movie proves that struggles and setbacks can only give way to strength and resilience. Overall, Just Mercy is painful yet inspirational and fresh. It is a film that everyone can all learn from, especially since its plot describes a problem that is still prevalent in our country today. The movie provides a powerful glimpse into a little known true story about resolve and determination to fight against racism in the legal system. It is a well paced, emotionally charged film from beginning to end that will keep the viewer hooked the entire time.

THE WEST

GEORGIAN

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Mathew Harvey

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Photo Courtesy of Stephen Bivens

# Stephen Bivens and His Passion for the Beautiful Game

By Kyle Soto

Contributing Writer

After a long day at the office, a Marietta based financial analyst prepares to leave work for the day. His day is not finished, however, as he still makes the long-distance drive to coach a soccer client. The next day, he has to make the drive to another field to run a pickup session. Over the weekend, he's running adult league games and meeting with more clients.

For Stephen Bivens, soccer is an integral part of everyday life, and his love for the game has inspired him to give back to the soccer community in various parts of Georgia. Bivens says he has been playing soccer for as long as he can remember and first became familiar with soccer as a child through his older brother and father, who both played and coached soccer while he was growing up.

"From a young age, my dad had me kicking a ball around the yard and around the house," Bivens said. "I just fell in love with it." It's fairly easy to see the pattern that would leave an impression on Bivens' life. Bivens initially began playing soccer in Georgia youth leagues and eventually made his way to Classic 1, the highest level of competitive youth soccer in Georgia at the time. Bivens also participated in the Professional Development Program, a summer program that allowed him to travel around the southeast and play against other highly rated youth players.

Bivens was a talented prospect in high school and attracted attention from a plethora of division one programs, but soccer wasn't the only reason he was earning that attention. While he played soccer throughout high school Bivens was also Douglas County High School's varsity football kicker for four years.

It was during his junior year of high school that the offers began to come in. He initially chose to play college football because the football scholarship offers were better than the offers he received to play soccer. That soon changed and Bivens decided to drop the football offers and follow his passion for soccer instead.

"I loved soccer and soccer was my passion growing up," Bivens said. "Ultimately, at the end of the day, I made the decision to stick with soccer because I love it."

By the time Bivens had decided to pursue soccer over football, all of the division one soccer programs were completely full, so he attended and played for Mars Hill College in the NCAA Division II in North Carolina. He primarily played as a striker and scored 12 goals in eight games during his senior year, a record that saw him sit top five in the NCAA scoring charts that year before sustaining an ankle injury that disrupted his season.

Despite losing his hot streak and being forced to sit out, Bivens attracted enough attention to be

invited to some USL combines, showcases where professional coaches are able to scout for players. Eventually, some National Premier Soccer League teams reached out and Bivens played two seasons with the Georgia Revolution. After that chapter of his life concluded, Bivens dedicated his efforts toward giving back to the local soccer community.

"After playing for the Georgia Revolution it [was about] my love for the game and I just wanted to give back to the younger kids that wanted to play," Bivens said. "I started doing a lot of training for myself and training with groups and younger kids."

Bivens began to give back to local soccer by conducting his own private training sessions when he was 24. His passion for the game never wavered, and he still meets with clients on a regular basis at the age of 28. Bivens drives all over the state to train clients, an often challenging task. Depending on the time of year, Bivens usually meets with around 20 clients per month. Creating a schedule that works around his job and adheres to travel time and location can be tough, but Bivens makes it work.

One of Bivens' newest ventures is creating and running weekly adult soccer leagues and pickup sessions. In the last year, Bivens has started two 7v7 adult leagues near Carrollton and hopes to have a two-division adult league this upcoming spring in Douglasville.

He's also dedicated Thursday nights to running pickup sessions, creating a space where players of any skill level can play.

He's busy, but Bivens has worked on his scheduling skills over the last four years and has cut out aspects of his life that he simply doesn't have the time for.

"As you do it, you learn how to do things better and more efficiently," Bivens said. "It takes time, but you figure out the things that you can cut out of your life. That allows you to really focus on the things that do matter and need to get done."

Despite all that Bivens has already done for soccer on a local level, he wants to keep going. He hopes to eventually run multiple adult leagues on multiple nights and open his own indoor soccer facility where he can host training sessions and his own league games.

"My goal is to build out the adult soccer community and have a large adult soccer community that has a couple of different leagues that people can play out of," Bivens said. "I would have never expected to be doing this much. The interesting thing is that I have a full-time finance job that's my career path that's going to make a living for me and pay my bills and support my family. But I also have a very strong passion for soccer, so I love to play, I love to teach it, and I love to coach. I balance all of those and it makes it all worth it."

# Rajah Caruth: Up and Coming Racer



Photo Courtesy of Roger Caruth

**By Damani Smith**

*Contributing Writer*

Rajah Caruth is a 17 year old race car driver from Washington, D.C. who has been recently accepted into NASCAR's Drive for Diversity Program for women and people of color, and is about to begin racing late models across the southeast United States. He has been passionate about racing since he was five, but did not realize his desire to be a race car driver existed until he was 12. He grew up in a family of Caribbean descent, making him quite the underdog in the racing world. He does not come from a ton of money like other drivers in NASCAR, and he is one of very few black drivers emerging into the sport. Expectations are high for any driver who wants to perform and Caruth is no exception.

"Part of me wanting to be a racer had a lot to do with me going to my first race at Richmond Raceway back in September 2014," Caruth said. "My first time getting real experience racing was back in the summer of 2017. I was racing go-karts and I didn't do it for a super long time, it was simply to get my feet wet. We used to run 2 heat races for qualifying, then the field would be reverted from slowest to fastest, inverting the field to determine the starting lineup. "Poor me, being a slow little kid, I would always

start first in the B-main and was able to hold the lead for a good duration of the race," continued Caruth. "Unfortunately, going into the final corner of the race, I got bulldozed straight into the wall. It stung, but it was a valuable learning experience starting my career and helped me get to where I'm going in my career."

Caruth also does online simulator racing with a program known as iRacing. This is a video game that allows users to hook their computers up to a steering wheel, pedals and shifter and helps teach them how to drive race cars in the real world. NASCAR drivers and race car drivers from other racing leagues around the world frequently use iRacing to improve their skills and learn the dynamics of the tracks.

"I was getting good experience running with such good people. It really gave me a gauge of how tough it is to drive a NASCAR Cup Series car and how much skill it takes. It was a really fun experience and helped me self motivate and tell myself 'I can do this' when the time comes and taught me having one bad race doesn't make me a bad driver." Every year, multiple people who meet the requirements for Drive for Diversity travel to Charlotte, NC or Daytona Beach, FL, for the combine with hopes to have a shot with

Rev Racing, the team that those who were accepted into the Drive for Diversity program get to drive for. Caruth tried out twice, and made it both times.

"I had no idea what was going on the first time around. Go Pro Motorplex was intimidating, so I viewed video footage to get an idea of how to get around that place. I was seen as the underdog when I went down to Charlotte, and when I got picked I was really surprised to be honest. I didn't see myself being picked at all and they picked me. The rest is history."

Caruth values his on track time as much as his off track time. Bubba Wallace, a current NASCAR Cup Series driver and the only current African-American driver on the circuit, ran some races in a Legends Car at Charlotte Motor Speedway during the Summer Shootout racing series, which Caruth also competed in. Wallace has five wins in the NASCAR Truck Series and multiple top five finishes in the NASCAR Cup Series. To date, Wallace is one of the most successful African-American drivers, which makes this a huge deal considering the fact that he and Caruth will be racing against each other for the first time this upcoming summer.

"My coolest memory was getting to be on the same track as a guy I have looked up to for the last ten years. It's even

cooler that I get to race in his division this year." Caruth's first late model race is in Myrtle Beach, SC and has been preparing diligently for it since November. He shows no signs of being overwhelmed or intimidated by this being his first race in a faster car after all the simulator time and legends car practice he had in 2019. "If you don't feel nervous you are not ready," said Caruth. Nervous doesn't mean you're unprepared or not confident, you have to be nervous because it shows you're invested and you care about it. Of course I got a little butterflies, but I cannot wait to get on track Friday and get seat time." Caruth also lets it be known he spends a lot of time in the gym and studies lap times from his test sessions. He will be racing against guys who have been racing late models for almost twice as long as he has been alive, and is ready for the challenge.



# An Ode to a Hero

By **Joey Walraven**  
*Contributing Writer*

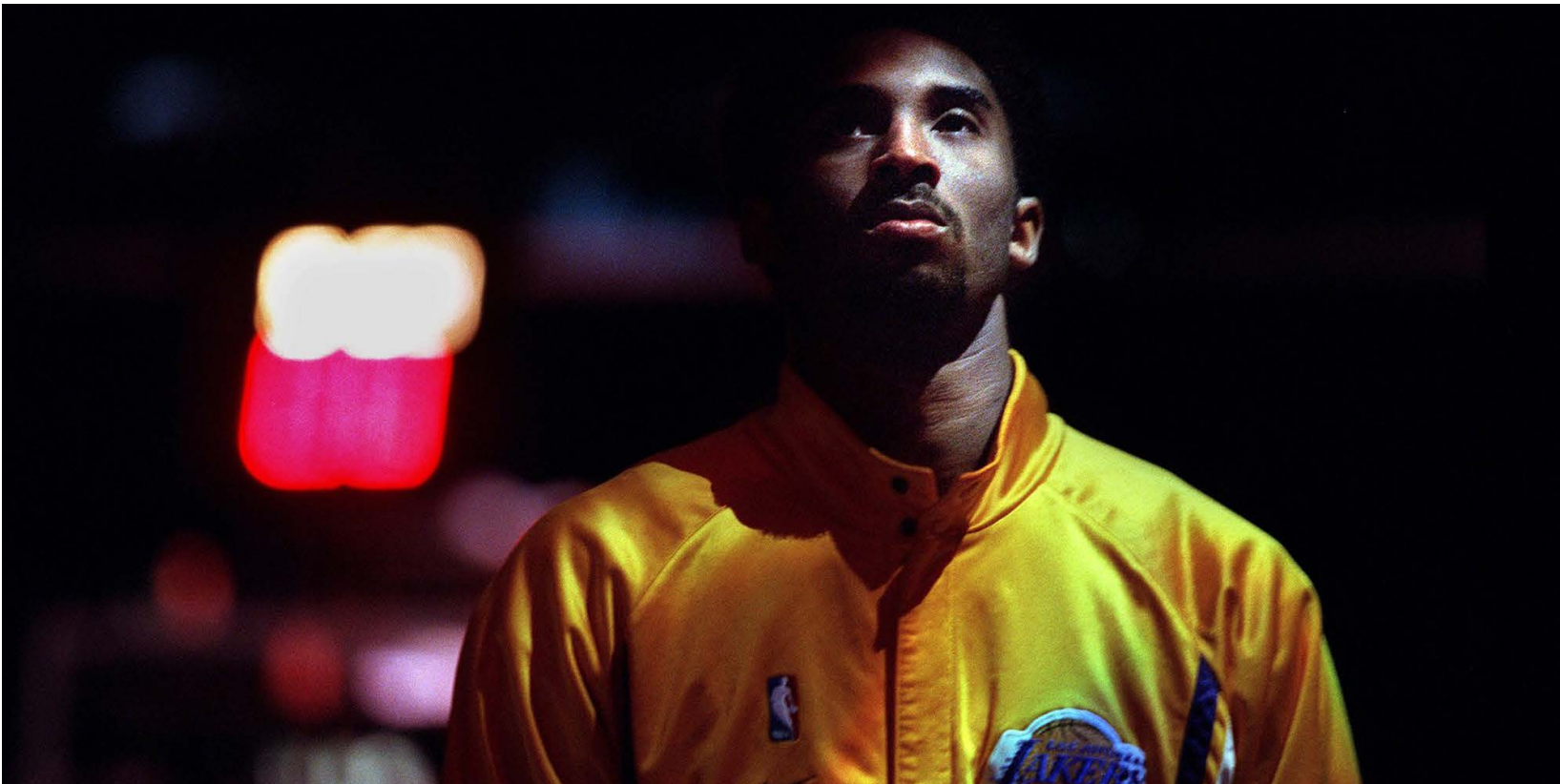
Dear Kobe, To some you were just an athlete. To some you were among the greatest and most iconic players to ever touch a basketball. While you had countless nicknames and titles, whether it be league MVP or NBA champion, to me you your greatest title of all was a hero. As a seven-year-old child, I didn't have a favorite superhero. I didn't care about Batman, Superman, or any type of fictitious character. That void was filled after I turned on a Lakers vs. Kings game. A young man wearing number eight instantly caught my attention. I had no idea it was possible for a human to fly, but then I saw him slam a basket-

ball with ease and ferocity, like I had never seen. Oh, and just in case you didn't know, I'm referring to you, Kobe "Bean" Bryant. I wanted to be you. I began playing basketball shortly after watching that game. After beginning that journey, my grandfather put a basketball goal on the garage for me to play on. For countless hours and days, I pretended that we were both Lakers, that I could dunk, I was hitting game-winning shots, and that we brought countless championships back home to Los Angeles. You created an opportunity for me to escape one of the most mentally traumatic eras of my life, traveling from a neighborhood in Metro Atlanta to the glitz and glamour of playing in the Staples Center.

While your accolades are some of the most impressive and extensive in NBA history, you always meant more to me. Sure, dropping 81 points in a game is cool. I guess winning five NBA championships and being named league MVP was pretty cool too. However, the fact that you were my hero always meant so much more to me. When I stayed at my aunt's house on the weekends, my walls were plastered with posters and magazine cut outs of you. I watched you on ESPN and was proud to tell everyone that Kobe Bryant was my hero. Perhaps the biggest legacy you left with me was adopting the "Mamba Mentality," which is the relentless pursuit to be great at whatever you do. That was bigger than basketball and applied to all facets of life. Whether it

be a job, school, or parenthood, be great at it and do it to the fullest. I will carry that around with me for the rest of my life. My hero, life and sports will never be the same for me. I know you and Gianna are in a better place now, and I want you to know that your impact will last for eternity. You gave a kid like me, and millions of others a desire to live, compete and be great. The memories that you created will last in the hearts of me and basketball fans all over the world. Not all heroes wear capes. As a matter of fact, mine wore the numbers eight and 24, with the name "Bryant" above them. You said it when you dropped 60 points in your final game, but I guess it's truly, "Mamba out." Thanks for everything, my hero, Kobe Bryant.

*Photo Courtesy of Wally Skali*



## LIVING WEST

# RecycleMania

By **Taylor Jackson**  
*Contributing Writer*

The Hispanic Latino Ambassadors (HLA) are partnering up with the Tri-Beta Biology Club to host "RecycleMania" to raise awareness about the importance of recycling. Every year there is a National Competition between different universities in the United States and Canada to see who can collect the most items. This is the first time HLA will host this event, which will take place Feb. 2 through March 28. Their primary focus is to catch students green-handed to make an impact not only at this university, but in the outside world as well. HLA will be providing incentives for the individuals that help to donate or recycle as many items as possible. Many departments such as biology, geoscience and admissions have already started to donate items to enter

in the raffle. At the end of each week, a prize will be given to three individuals that contributed the most during that week. "The goal is to encourage students to recycle even after the event ends," said HLA President Janet Garcia. "We are doing the raffle to help motivate students to get active in going green." Recycling helps to limit the need of raw materials as well as keep harmful chemicals from being released into the atmosphere. Many of the HLA members will be walking around the campus throughout the day to promote and inform the students about "RecycleMania" and recycling in the future. They will also be carrying around recycling bins to collect items from the students. It only takes a few seconds to donate and make a difference, so why not? After donating items, the members will take pho-

tos of the participants as a thank you for their contribution. These photos will be posted to HLA's social media accounts to highlight participation efforts. UWG has many blue recycling bins all around the campus that aren't being used. Instead of tossing empty water bottles in the trash, toss them into the blue recycling bins. They can be found in the library or different class buildings next to regular trash cans. Each bin is used for specific items. Some of the bins are used primarily for paper and plastic, while others may be used for aluminum cans and things of that nature. "I hope to create awareness on campus about the delicate situation our planet is in," said HLA Fundraising Committee Member Andrea Escamillo. "It is so important to recycle, reuse and reduce the waste in our community." Although this event is to gather many recyclable items, it's also a great way to get the students engaged and moti-

vated to help make a change. Many students walk past the bins without even thinking about how something that small can make such a huge impact on our environment. "When I was at home, we had recycling bins and I would recycle, but I have not recycled since being at this university," said UWG student Kameron Mitchell. "For me, it is all about marketing and informing. If I don't know about something, then I can't help." The problem is not that students aren't willing to participate, it is the fact that many students are unaware of the recycling bins. That's why HLA has decided to host this competition. Winning is not their main priority. Teaching and informing students about the basics of recycling and the impact it has on the world is a win in itself. For more information regarding RecycleMania, follow HLA @uwglatinoambassadors or @tribeta\_uwg.

## I.M Master's Academy Encourages Young People to "Run the Play!"

By Cynthia Harris  
Contributing Writer

The IM Master's Academy held one of their yearly conferences on Jan. 17-18 at the Georgia World Congress Center in downtown Atlanta. It was open to anyone who wanted to learn about the Academy's work, though members believe young adults benefit the most from what they offer. IM Master's Academy has been active for six years and their priority is to make everyone who shows up feel as though they can master marketing skills including technical analysis, reading charts, selecting beneficial trades and risk management. They aim to spread their mantra

"Run the Play!" which is meant to encourage young people by shedding light on how they can be successful in network marketing if they believe they can shape their own destiny.

Justin Owens was the host for the evening and he kept the crowd of over 250 people entertained with jokes and inspirational stories. Others who attended the event included Alex Morton, who is currently on Forbes' list of 30 under 30, and David Imonitie who is the highest paid African-American in the multi-level marketing business. Perhaps the most memorable part of the evening took place when the panel traders came up to speak. They were regular young

adults who at the time were struggling financially, a situation many in attendance could relate to. They all began to pick up trading and each one regarded it as one of the best decisions they ever made. One trader described her breakthrough trading moment that came when she felt as though she was not going to make it, only to hit her biggest payday. Another trader described his experience with multi-level marketing as not being about the money, but rather the joy he had brought to people he knew by introducing them to the business and that their joy was his reward. Jeff Greene was originally a firefighter with little knowledge of trading. Now he

has been trading for six months and has already scored a huge payout. "With time being the greatest commodity we have I want other people to come in here and see that they don't have to spend 30, 40 years of their lives working someone else's dreams when they can be financially free," Greene said.

Greene has so far made \$500 in one day alone from network marketing in the category of foreign exchange, his trade of choice. "Multiple strings of income today is not a luxury it is a need," Greene said about his success in the business. "What I want people to take away from all this, is that they can be more than a job."

## have you ever felt like you were meant for more?

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we give meaning & purpose.

we believe real change begins with positive self-talk & thinking,

that finding happiness starts within.

Images Courtesy of IM Academy

# For the People:

## Jon Ossoff Aims for Big Change in Georgia



Photo Courtesy of Jon Ossoff for Senate

By Mathew Harvey

Contributing Writer

Jon Ossoff, who is running for the Democratic primary in the 2020 Georgia Senate election, is looking to make a change in Georgia's healthcare and environment infrastructure, as well as root out corruption in the political system. Ossoff is hoping to achieve these goals by uniting Georgians on common sense problems with common sense solutions. An ambitious goal considering the tense political climate we currently find ourselves in and one that won't be easy, but Ossoff thinks that it is possible as most Georgians typically agree on most.

"There is a lot of discussion over how polarized politics has become and it is true that the political class is extremely polarized, but regular people agree on most things," said Ossoff. "We just need political leadership that will answer to voters and not the donors." Ossoff thinks that most people agree on common sense problems and can agree on common sense solutions to those problems, such as the basic rights of humans which is something that he sees many people are struggling for. "We have to ensure that every single American has health insurance and healthcare, we have to crack down on price gouging by pharmaceutical companies that have driven prescription drug prices through the roof," said Ossoff. "Folks are struggling to afford the basics. We all want the basics in life. We all need the basics in life: a roof over our head, food and nutrition, medical care, respect for our human rights and dignity. This isn't that complicated. We just need legislators who will deliver instead of serving corpo-

rate packs who pay them campaign contributions." Ossoff is also hoping to stand up for the young people in America who he sees are being taken advantage of through student loans, the current criminal justice system, and the minimum wage structure. "Young people and students in America are being exploited," said Ossoff. "The student debt crisis is an outrage. The criminal justice system hurts so many young people. Our leader's refusal to raise the minimum wage hurts so many young people. I will fight to make the public college partially debt-free, period. I will fight for reform of our criminal justice system including the legalization, regularization, and taxation of cannabis, and I will fight to make sure the minimum wage is a living wage."

Jon Ossoff is known for his work as a media executive and investigative journalist where he helped expose political corruption cases. Weeding the corruption that, as he claims, has enveloped the politics of today seems to be one of Ossoff's primary objectives as he fears that our democracy is at stake. "Right now in America we have an epidemic of political corruption," said Ossoff. "If we do not mount an all-out assault on the corruption that's destroying our political system we may lose our democracy. We work to hold people accountable who abuse their power." Answering to the voters and not donors is important for Ossoff as he has committed to taking the campaign to the people with the One Georgia Town Hall Series. The series is set up for Ossoff to answer questions from the people and provide them with his answers on issues while bringing humanity and togetherness through the idea of "one people."

By doing this he is leaving a transparent wall between himself and the voters, so they know everything about him and his campaign. This is something he thinks is missing from the current leaders, as money and corruption have taken over politics. Politicians are doing a lot of money moving behind the back of the common people and Ossoff is looking to put a stop to it.

"I am going out to the people of the state to answer any questions they have. We are taking this campaign directly to the people," said Ossoff. Political corruption has led to what Ossoff says to be a waste of trillions of dollars on wars, bailouts for powerful banks, tax cuts, feeding the wealthiest and best-connected people, and the blame falls on the elected representatives. Too often the big corporations are getting their say on the political situations of America and making changes that best benefit them, not the common people of America. "Look at the last year of American history," said Ossoff. "We have squandered trillions on needless wars. Trillions on bailouts for the most powerful banks. Trillions on tax cuts for the wealthiest and best-connected, and our elected representatives are failing us on health care, on the cost of prescription drugs, on climate change and the environment, and on infrastructure. It is because our political institutions are hopelessly corrupted by corporate specialist money and secret money that flows into our democracy."

If he wins, Ossoff's first act as Georgia's U.S. Senator would be to attempt to repeal the Citizens United Decision, which allows labor unions and corporations to spend their money on advocating for the election or the

defeat of running candidates. He stands strong on this as his own campaign is not accepting any contributions for corporate packs.

"My first act as Georgia's U.S. Senator will be to co-sponsor a constitutional amendment that will repeal the Citizens United Decision, which allows unlimited secret money to flow into our politics," said Ossoff. Ossoff has been critical of the current leadership stating that they are letting Americans down on healthcare, environmental changes, letting money flow into politics, and much more. It will take a lot to make the changes Ossoff seeks, but holding those currently in charge accountable is where he is looking to start. "Senator David Perdue fears the public," said Ossoff. "He hasn't held a single town hall meeting in five years. But he hosts lobbyists and donors who pay him thousands of dollars for secret retreats on his private island. We need to know who attends those retreats. We need to know which lobbyist or corporate packs were represented in the room when David Perdue skipped a hearing of the Armed Services Committee about the welfare of Georgia's military families to meet with the list of donors he calls his quote, boardroom."



Photo Courtesy of Jon Ossoff for Senate

# THE WEST GEORGIAN



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The University of West Georgia  
University Community Center, Room 111

Carrollton, GA, 30118-0070  
Editorial Line: (678) 839-6527  
Advertising Manager: (678) 839-6588  
Editorial E-mail: uwgeditorinchief@gmail .com  
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