

Sports

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season at Southwest Baptist, his players set 29 school records, six Missouri Intercollegiate Athletic Association records and two national records. Receiver Nick Smart broke the NCAA all-divisions record with 143 receptions and was an All-American.

In 2008, Brown took the same position at Henderson State in Arkadelphia, Ark. where his offense ranked third in Division II in passing, averaging 330 yards per game, and 18th in total offense (448 ypg). Henderson State set 12 school records including points-per-game (32.8) and yards per game. He coached an All-American and two all-Gulf South Conference selections, including a receiver who ranked second nationally with 121 yards per game. His quarterbacks ranked sixth nationally in passing yards (321 ypg).

A year later Brown took the quarterback coach/offensive coordinator job at Valdosta State, under Head Coach David Dean, another former Yellow Jacket.

"We had that (Georgia Tech) connection, and we also played Valdosta St., while I was at Henderson St., so that's how I ended up at Valdosta St.," Brown said.

In Brown's second season at Valdosta St., his offense ranked 25th nationally in total offense (418 ypg) and 12th in passing (286 ypg). One of his receivers also set the GSC career receptions record.

In 2012 he helped Valdosta State win the NCAA Division II National Championship as his offense averaged 469 yards and produced 40 points-per-game.

After winning it all in 2012, Brown went to Northwestern State, an NCAA Football Championship Subdivision school in Natchitoches, LA where he guided an offense that averaged nearly 400 total yards per contest including more than 230 yards per game through the air.

Entering the 2014 season, Brown returned to Division I football when he took the job of Running Backs Coach at South Alabama.

Following a coaching change at South Alabama, Brown was let go when the new coach brought in his own guys. However, things worked out for Brown as Coach Gailey came calling.

"I've been close with (Coach Gailey) and he's mentored me through the years and is just a great person and a great guy," Brown said. "I learned a ton of football from him and he recommended me to the head coach Todd Bowles, and he hired me as the quality control assistant.

"As an offensive quality control coach, you're basically whatever the offensive coordina-

tor wants to make you. You're like a special assistant to the offensive coordinator is the way I would explain it. Coach Bowles and Coach Gailey are letting me do a lot more on field stuff than I thought I would. At practice I help the wide receiver coach, Karl Dorrell, about 90 percent of the time. Other duties that I have are tons of film breakdown, I'm responsible for organizing the practice scripts and all of that organizational stuff to assist the offensive coordinator."

Brown was a 1999 graduate and four-year letterman at Union County High School where he was Team MVP and captain while playing quarterback for Coach Allison.

"Robby was a very smart player on and off the field," Coach Allison said. "He was very coachable and understood the game very well as a player. Robby was a good leader and hard worker. I always knew he would make a good coach because he works very hard. He has sacrificed a lot to get into the position he is in right now and I am very proud of his accomplishments."

During his senior campaign in 1998, Brown led the Panthers to their best record in 13 years with a 7-3 mark that was also the team's first winning season in 10 years.

"That was a very good football team," Coach Allison said. "No great players just a lot of good kids that played well together."

He also lettered in baseball and was a starter on Union County's 1997-98 basketball team that compiled the second highest win total in team history with a record of 24-2.

"I was fortunate to have people around me, like Coach Allison that taught me the game," Brown said. "He is unbelievable and one of the best coaches I've ever been around. I still think about stuff he taught me in high school and whenever I come home, one of the first things I do is go see him and talk football, or watch the team workout, which is what I did the other day.

"Coach (Alan) Ross (UCHS Head Basketball Coach) is another guy that we were so fortunate to have in the short time that we had him. I still do stuff either consciously or subconsciously that he taught me."

When Brown comes home, he gets a chance to show off the Blue Ridge Mountains by sending pictures to his friends and colleagues in New Jersey and New York.

"I come back about twice a year and love it, I don't think there is a prettier place in the whole world. I also sent a picture of my morning jog back to Nick (Filis - Jets Media Relations)."

Brown credits his father, Danny, a former high school football referee for getting him interested in football at a very young age.

"My dad was a pharmacist in town and a high school (football) referee," Robby Brown said. "But when I was a kid we would go all over Northeast and Northwest Georgia and he would call games. He would bring me and sit me on the sideline. He'd buy me one of those red paper cup cokes and get me a candy bar, then he'd tell me, 'whenever I spot the ball, if I look at you, you better be looking at me if you want to come back next week.' So even at 5 years old the good Lord was teaching me to pay attention to the game. One of Dad's buddies said, 'I can't believe he stands there the whole game,' so I guess I was a weird little football kid to begin with."

Another father/son moment that likely played a major role in Robby Brown becoming a football player and a coach took place when Robby Brown began playing Pee Wee football at 9 years old.

"When I was in Pee Wee's, Red Davenport was my coach and I was scared to death to hit. Dad had an old black F-100 pickup with flare sides and no air conditioning and we were driving home (after practice). Dad said, 'I just want you to know that Red said you're not going to get to play very much on Saturday.' I remember tearing up and asking, 'why?' Dad said, 'well, you don't like to hit. You're scared.' I told him, 'no Dad, I'm not scared,' and he said, 'yes you are. I came out to watch practice and you're afraid to hit.' So I cried all the way home and when we got there, Dad came around to help me out of the truck, and I remember him getting

down at eye-level with me and he said, 'son, you know that playing football isn't going to make me love you.' Then I'll never forget it, he bent down and looked me right in the eye and said, 'but I do want you to know, if you want to play football, you better hit.' I've always thought that if he handled that differently, I might not be doing what I'm doing today. That next week, I remember thinking, 'I'm going to hit. I was never a big hitter but I was no longer scared. My family has been awesome. Mom, Dad, and my brother and sister would go all over the country to watch me.'"

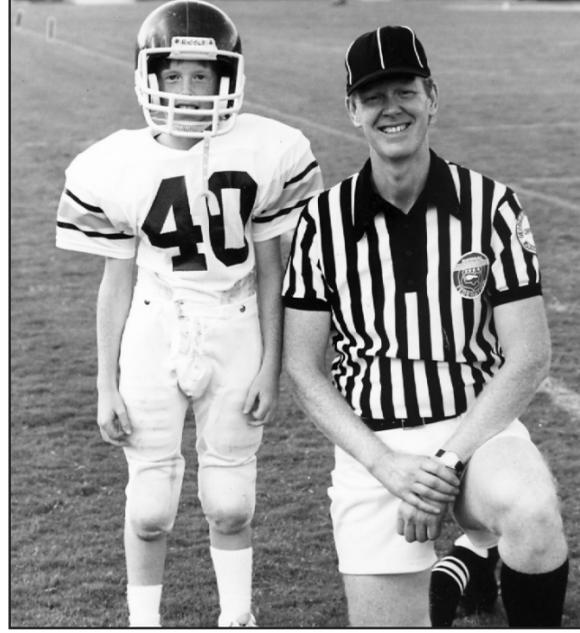
Robby Brown is married to the former Rachel Rhodes Jones from Sumter, SC and has one child, a 2-year old daughter named Parks, after his middle name and his mom's maiden name.

He also credits his wife for

preventing him from giving up on his coaching career when things weren't looking up.

"This is a hard story to tell but at one point I thought about getting out of coaching after having a rough year. My wife and I were walking down the street and she said, 'Robby, I've got one question for you. When you watch Coach (Gailey) on TV will you wonder if you could've done it?'"

"I'm just a good ole boy from North Georgia that the Lord has blessed with the opportunity to do something that I really enjoy doing for the last 11 years," Robby Brown said, summing up his coaching career. "Sometimes I look back and think 'wow it's pretty cool that I've gotten to go to some of these places and see these places.' That's not just with the Jets, that's going back to Southwest Baptist."



Robby Brown (40) with his father Danny Brown, during the fall of 1989 when Robby first took the field in purple and gold as a member of the Panthers' Pee-Wee squad.



Robby Brown and Union County Head Football Coach Brian Allison prior to a Panthers game. Brown would connect on 10 touchdown passes and rush for six more scores during his senior season in 1998.

Union County wrestling program making progress

By Coach Michael Smith-Foot
North Georgia News
Sports Special

Last week, the North Georgia News' Todd Forrest interviewed Union County Wrestling Coach Michael Smith Foot regarding the progress of Union County wrestling. Below is Coach Smith-Foot's analysis of the future of Union wrestling.

This is the first year that we will have a full varsity squad where every weight class will be filled. That's been a problem in the past because we've had to give up so many points for forfeits.

Another thing we're excited about is: not only will we have a boy in every weight class, we'll have two boys in almost every weight class. So not only will we have to wrestle guys from another team, but they will have to wrestle someone from their own team just to make varsity,

and that makes a huge difference in a wrestling program.

We've got really good numbers this year. For the high school we have almost 24 boys signed up. We have 30 signed up at the middle school and Art McCann had almost 30 boys for the youth program. We had 30 kids sign up for the Rec wrestling through the recreation department and we're planning on doing that every summer, but we might move that to the fall because we just found out that other counties have a fall wrestling program for children.

If we can find a coach, we may move it to the fall so the boys can not only compete against themselves, but compete against other teams, like Gilmer County and Pickens County who are really tough programs.

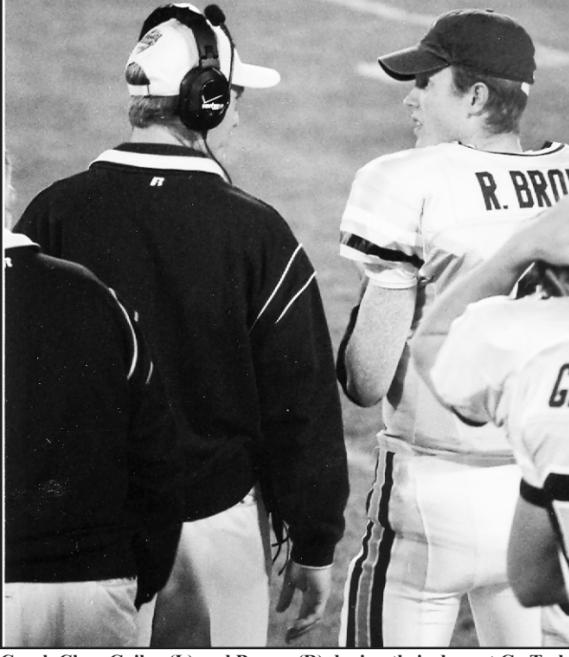
One of the benefits with wrestling at the middle school is, they are now allowed to compete in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. With

football and basketball, they have to wait until 7th grade. But in wrestling, having sixth graders helps us fill the smaller weight classes. Last year we had to forfeit three weight classes because we didn't have a seventh grader small enough to wrestle in those classes, so that was the reason that they've allowed us to have sixth graders. Because we can't continue to forfeit at 72, 79, and 84 (pounds) and basically give a team 18 points at the beginning of every dual, that's just too hard to come back from.

I feel like there is energy and excitement in the program that I've been looking for. We had three really hard weeks of week-long wrestling practices that the high school boys didn't have to come to, but they showed up. They worked with the younger

kids and then they wrestled with each other and I think they're finally ready to win.

During the three-week wrestling camp I didn't have the numbers that I wanted to have, but it was amazing with the ones that came. I've never done anything like this before and if I'd have known how receptive this would've been, this style of coaching, I would've done it 20 years ago. I had 5-year olds doing moves that the high school kids have trouble with. I think it was from the everyday repetition for 3-hours. Don't get me wrong, we still cover the basics first, but then you got to the point where you drilled it so much that they became bored, so we just started throwing extra moves at them and they were able to soak it up like sponges.



Coach Chan Gailey (L) and Brown (R) during their days at Ga Tech

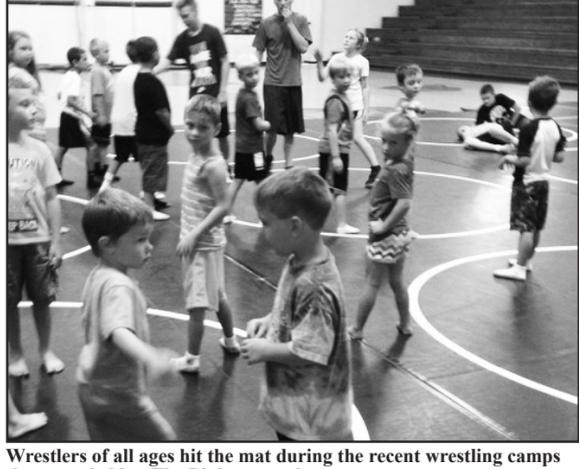
Blairsville School of Dance kicks off its Summer Fitness Challenge

Blairsville School of Dance is preparing to kick off its summer fitness challenge on July 7. This six-week challenge awards the winner with a cash prize based on the number of inches lost. The Challenge includes 6 weeks of unlimited CardioDance classes and is open to the community.

If you are interested in joining, you may register online at <https://dancestudio-pro.com/online/blairsvilledance> or

in person at Blairsville School of Dance. The Challenge begins Tuesday, July 7 at 6:30 p.m. Fitness classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30. Cost is \$40.

Blairsville School of Dance is located at 80 Blue Ridge Street in the Merchant's Walk Plaza across from the Blairsville Police Department. For more information, call (706) 835-1415 or email blairsvilledance@gmail.com.
NJUL1Z17/CA



Wrestlers of all ages hit the mat during the recent wrestling camps that were held at The Pit last month.

New Liberty Heaven Bound Sportsmen's
3rd Annual
3-D Archery Coon Shoot
Bow Raffle Refreshments
Door Prizes
And God was with the lad; and he grew, and dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer. Genesis 21:20
Will be held July 18, 2015 at **Alexander's Store**
Town Creek School Rd, Blairsville, GA
Sign in From 7:00pm-8:30pm
Shotgun Start at Dark
\$10 per Shooter
Classes will be: Mens, Womens, Traditional, Youth (12-16),
Cubs(11 and under shoot FREE)
Rules: No Shining Targets. Targets will be lit with a light.
No Broadheads
Must Shoot From Stake
Bring a small flashlight for walking
Any Questions Please Contact: Trenny Elliott 706-781-8883,
Jason Seabolt 706-835-6978 or Tim Bohannon 706-781-4658

Run Above The Clouds adds 5K



Exciting news! The Run Above The Clouds just got bigger and better with the addition of a companion 5K race. Now runners will have a choice for Georgia's most scenic race. The inaugural 5k will join the legendary Run Above The Clouds 10K on Saturday October 3, 2015 at 9 a.m. The Run Above The Clouds is held in the small mountain community of Suches in the beautiful North Georgia mountains. At 2900 feet above sea level, The Run Above The Clouds is the highest altitude 10K race in the state of Georgia.

The Run Above The Clouds is held as a benefit for the students of Woody Gap School. The event is funded by sponsorships, as well as registration fees from the runners. It is held on the first full weekend in October, which coincides with the annual Indian Summer Festival in

Suches.

The Run Above The Clouds is a 5K and 10K road race over a scenic but challenging out and back course through the North Georgia mountains. There is a companion 1-mile Fun Run which is a generally flat route that takes runners beside beautiful Woody Lake. The event start/finish line is across from Woody Gap School at the Community Center on State Highway 60 in Suches, GA, which is 16 miles north of Dahlonega. Each runner will receive a race T-shirt. Awards for the 5K and 10K are two-deep for male and female in each group with special awards presented to overall top male and top female.

Runners can register at Active.com. Event details, entry fees and further information on The Run Above The Clouds please visit www.runabovetheclouds.org or email cloudrun10k@yahoo.com.

Men's Senior Softball League

Wanted! Men's Senior Softball players for an established league on Sunday afternoons at Meeks Park. Call Ray at 706-994-4014. 50 years and over.



Trout stocking sites week of June 22-26, 2015

Fannin: Rock Creek and Toccoa River
Lumpkin: Etowah River and Nimbwill Creek
Union: Cooper Creek
Note: Information is subject to change. Please call the hatchery at 706-838-4723 for questions. The hatchery also provides trout for the state. Please contact Georgia DNR for information on sites stocked by the state. NJUL1Z10/CA



FALL SOCCER REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!!

Age Groups U6-U16

Register online at www.mountainsoccer.org

Registration forms are also available to print from the website. Forms can be mailed to P.O. Box 1862, Blairsville, GA 30514.

Deadline to register is July 18, 2015.

For additional information please check out our website at www.mountainsoccer.org or email us at musa.soccer@gmail.com.