

Sports

O'Hara

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said you never what to expect from a transfer, but that O'Hara was as good as advertised.

"Sometimes their game gets blown up and sometimes their underrated and Jack was on the underrated side," Willis said. "He excelled from the beginning. He doesn't even have to work at it that hard to me, even though he does work hard."

One example of how easy O'Hara makes it look is his transition from basketball to golf. Without much practice, he shot 75 in his first tournament of the year just a week removed from the end of the

Knights' season on the hardwood.

O'Hara's future team is actually in town this week for a match against College of Coastal Georgia. O'Hara will have dinner with the team today, but he will miss out on the actual match Friday because he'll be at a GISA All-Star basketball game in Augusta.

"I won't get to see them play," O'Hara said.

Even though he will be on the team court instead of the links this weekend, what makes O'Hara such a good golfer will still be on display.

"He's a great athlete," Willis said. "He's got great hands and touch. You can see it when he shoots basket, and you can see if when he's on the golf course."

Prep

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Brunswick girls dropped a close game 3-2 at Wayne County. Wayne led 1-0 at halftime, but Brunswick got two second-half goals from

Maten's 25 helps Bulldogs advance

By KURT VOIGT
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Yante Maten was a lightly used freshman the last time Georgia reached the NCAA Tournament during the 2014-15 season.

The senior knows the odds are against the Bulldogs of returning to the tournament this season, but he wasn't about to let them go down without at least one last push at the Southeastern Conference Tournament.

Maten scored 25 points to lead 12th-seeded Georgia (17-14) to a 78-62 win over Vanderbilt in the opening round of the tournament on Wednesday night. The 6-foot-8 forward did so on 9-of-12 shooting, showing why he was named the Associated Press SEC player of the year — and helping to set up a second-round matchup

with No. 5 seed Missouri on Thursday in the process.

"He was the AP player of the year in our league for a reason, because he's really good down on the block and on the outside," Georgia coach Mark Fox said. "He pretty much scored any way you can score the basketball."

Maten has scored in double figures in all but one game this season for Georgia, which led throughout against the Commodores (12-20). The SEC's leading scorer started his latest scoring outburst with a pair of 3-pointers in the opening minutes, and he also added a pair of blocks in 29 minutes of action.

It was a far cry from his 8-of-18 shooting performance in an 81-66 loss to Vanderbilt on Feb. 7. Teshaun Hightower added a career-high 13 points off the bench for the Bulldogs, and Rayshaun Hammonds had 10 in the win.

TOC

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competition they won't see in the regular season. Most teams sign up to play three games, though some choose two or even one game. Teams are guaranteed to play the games they sign up for, and are not eliminated if they lose the previous game.

"They know when they're coming down that they are playing level competition," Madden said. "It could be a turning point in their season. Winning is a badge of honor for them."

Coordinating game times can be a challenge because some teams request certain days and times they'd like to play and the type of opponent they want to face, Madden said.

"There are a lot of teams that will see each other in the playoffs," he said. "Some ask for specific times so they can scout possible playoff teams."

There are also at least four colleges who will have scouts at the tournament, and more will likely show up unannounced, he said.

Brent Cook, former soccer coach at both Brunswick High and Glynn Academy, is credited with founding the tournament in 1994. He said he never anticipated it

would grow into an event that has attracted as many as 50 teams.

The first year the tournament was played, three teams participated including the two Glynn County high schools as well as one from Athens.

It was a bracketed tournament until coaches said it was too problematic from a scheduling perspective to wait to learn their next opponent and when and where the game would be played.

The event grew slowly until the fields at Jekyll Island opened.

"When Jekyll Island's fields opened it became more than a soccer tournament," he said. "At that point, we understood it was a spectator friendly tournament."

Cook credits the many people who work behind the scenes to make the event the success he never envisioned 25 years ago.

"Coaches said it's the high point of their season," he said. "It's been a rich experience."

Glynn Academy boys coach Bobby Brockman said his Red Terrors team is only playing one game because his regular season schedule is full, and he can't go over the limit.

He said he asked for the best team signed up to play as a way to gauge his team at the midpoint of the regular

season to determine where his team needs to improve.

"I like to face the best team in the tournament," he said. "Even if we don't win, it gives us an idea of what to focus on. I'd rather challenge the guys."

The Terrors, (6-1) will face St. Pius X, which Brockman describes as a "state powerhouse."

Brockman said he wouldn't ask to play the best team every year if he thought it would be a blowout game.

"The games we have lost, have still been competitive games," he said.

Though the event attracts some of the top teams, Brockman said he doesn't watch other games to scout the potential competition in the state playoffs in two months.

"In two months a team can chance what they are doing," he said.

The Lady Terrors (6-0) will play two games starting tonight when they face Columbus at 8:40 p.m. at North Glynn. They return to North Glynn at 7 p.m. on Friday to face St. Pius X.

Brunswick High will also only play one game, but for good reason, said boys coach Daniel Szokoly.

Brunswick High is the tournament host and proceeds from the event help pay to support the program.

"All of my players work

the sites," he said. "We want the kids to be part of this."

The Pirates (4-5-2) will face North Forsyth at 8:40 p.m. tonight at North Glynn on field two.

Szokoly said he wanted to play a bigger school because most of the team's regional competition, with the exception of Camden County, is from smaller schools.

One challenge is he doesn't have film to review before the game, which he compared to "rolling the dice."

"We come in cold to the tournament," he said.

From a high school soccer fan's perspective, Szokoly said it doesn't get much better than the match ups fans will see.

"You get some really incredible teams that have won their regions," he said. "It's awesome. For the most part the teams are really good."

The Brunswick girls (3-5) will play 2 p.m. Saturday against Sprayberry at North Glynn.

Frederica Academy girls (1-1) will face Mt. Paran 3:40 p.m. on Friday at North Glynn, followed by the boys (1-0) facing Mt. Paran at 5:20 p.m.

The Camden County boys (1-2-1) will face Marietta at 10:40 a.m. Saturday at Jekyll Island.

For information about all the matchups to to tocsoccer.com.

Soccer

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composed in the face of adversity than it was in a win last week against Savannah Christian.

"This is a more challenging opponent for us," O'Sullivan said. "That's good in the sense that they stretched us. What was an improvement was we had to stay pretty composed and keep our wits about us and we did that better than we did."

Frederica had the first good chance to score in the game. A cross through the Glynn box though went untouched by a Frederica foot or head.

"We had one chance early in the first half," O'Sullivan said. "That was maybe our best chance, along with the free kick in the second half,

that we could have done a little better with."

The Terrors dominated possession for most of the first half. A free kick in to the box and a corner kick in the first 12 minutes didn't result in points.

Frederica had a corner in the 21st minute that resulted in no damage. The Terrors dented the scoreboard first in the 32nd minute when Ivan DeLuna Ruvalcaba slipped past the Knights' defense and beat keeper John Mitchell Brock for a 1-0 advantage.

The score would remain that way for the rest of the first half. The Terrors continued to dominate possession in the second half, leading to a corner kick in the 54th minute that Gray Sasser would put in the back of the net to make it 2-0.

Joel Preston added the final goal in the 75th minute

when he beat Brock with a shot that glanced off the inside of the right post and into the net.

"We had more possession," Brockman said. "They put their two best players at center back and tried to keep it pretty tight. When we got that first goal, that allowed us to push a little harder."

After Glynn scored its first goal, O'Sullivan moved Jacob Myers from center back. The second goal forced O'Sullivan to put his other captain Ryan Steilen out of the center back position too.

"For us, we can't be chasing games against a GA — especially when we're utilizing some of our stronger guys in the back," O'Sullivan said.

The win moves Glynn to 6-1 overall with a date against perennial state power St. Pius X on Friday in the

Tournament of Champions at North Glynn Recreation Complex.

"I like to always schedule tough games, and this was a tough game for us — even though we won 3-0," Brockman said. "St. Pius X will be even tougher. They'll give us everything we want and then some."

Frederica, which moves to 1-1, is still trying to figure out where all the pieces go on the field. They'll continue that road of discovery Friday in the Tournament of Champions against Mount Paran.

"We're still finding out as coaches and players about the team," O'Sullivan said. "They need games, we need games as coaches for that part. The good thing with our group is they fight, they keep plugging along, they don't ever hang their head or give an inch."



Like bridges, issues connect us.

— DAVID O'QUINN

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These community-wide issues will define the future of our County and your well-being for the next four years.

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