



PEACHTREE RIDGE AT HARRISON

PEACHTREE RIDGE LIONS (7-AAAAA)

- Coach: Bill Ballard
- 2008 record: 12-3
- Last week: Did not play

HARRISON HOYAS (5-AAAAA)

- Coach: David Hines
- 2008 record: 9-3
- Last week: Did not play

These two teams split with each other last season, and both games served as a strong measuring stick as to how far the Lions had come from point A to point B.

That is particularly true for quarterback Nick Lombardo and the Peachtree Ridge offense, which struggled mightily in the first meeting, but improved greatly during the season and was a key factor in the Lions' run to the Class AAAAA state finals.

The roles are reversed from last year's first meeting, with Peachtree Ridge holding a decided advantage in experience, with 13 returning starters, plus the addition of senior GAC transfer Steve Atwater.

In contrast, Harrison lost several key starters from last season — including leading rusher and current Georgia Tech walk-on Robbie Godhigh — though the Hoyas are not without weapons.

Among the most dangerous might be senior Christian Turnipseed, who excelled both as a receiver (33 receptions) and safety (3 INTs) before missing the second half of the season with a broken leg.

"He's got great speed, and he's certainly a good football player," Peachtree Ridge head coach Bill Ballard said of Turnipseed. "(Harrison is) a talented team. They've got big-play capability at a lot of positions. ... They're probably one of the more underrated teams from over there (in Cobb County) because they graduated so many kids last year. But they're always a good team. They're a perennial playoff team."

■ **Last meeting:** Peachtree Ridge won 17-7 in the first round of the playoffs last season

■ **Directions to Harrison High School:** I-85 south to I-285 west to I-75 north to exit 269, which is Barrett Parkway. Turn left on Barrett Parkway and one mile later, turn right on Cobb Parkway. At the fourth light, take a left on Kennesaw Due West Road and the school is six miles on the right.



Steve Atwater

