

# Braves Head to Playoffs

**By Jake Yates**  
Sports Editor

The Heard County High School baseball team is heading to the state playoffs. The team finished their region schedule in second place with a 14-2 region record. Their only two losses came at the hands of top ranked Pike County, who ended the Braves chances of winning a region title when they defeated the Braves 10-0 in five innings this past Friday. By finishing in one of the top two spots in the region, the Braves assured themselves of hosting the first round of the playoffs. This Friday, the Braves will host Decatur High School in a best of three series.

Despite losing its final regular season game, the Braves are still on a roll, as the team has won eighteen out of their last twenty games. The Braves finished the regular season with a record of 21-4 and ranked fourth in AA. The team averaged a whopping ten runs per game during the season, while only allowing two runs per game. The Braves totals are truly impressive, having scored 253 runs and giving up only 69 runs in twenty-five games.

On March 30, the Braves took on their archrivals, the Callaway Cavaliers. The Braves came out victorious by a score of 6-1. Senior Tyler Cash, who pitched six strong innings and only giving up one run, led the team defensively. Senior Clint Lowery came in and closed the door with a save. The Braves were led offensively

by senior Wesley Cannon and sophomore Tyler Spradlin. Cannon went 3-3 with three doubles and Spradlin added his second homerun of the year.

Over spring break, the Braves played Mt. Zion and won by the score of 7-4. Cannon got the win and senior Brandon Manning hit his first homerun. They also took on the Manchester Blue Devils and were victorious by a score of 10-0, with Lowery getting the win. On April 8, the team clashed with the Macon County Bulldogs and won 8-1. Cash got the win and Spradlin hit his third homerun.

The Braves then played region foe Jordan on April 14. The Braves were ahead 13-0 in the first inning and cruised home with the victory by a final score of 16-1. Next, they took on Handley Tigers and won 13-2. Cannon earned the win and junior Bryan Dunson led the offense with a grand slam.

On Friday April 17, the Braves took on the number one ranked Pike County Pirates. It was close the entire game with a couple of costly mistakes that hurt the Braves in the sixth inning. The Braves were down 9-5 in the bottom of the seventh and came back to make it 9-7 before ending it on a deep fly ball with runners on first and second. Lowery pitched four innings and Cash pitched the remaining three. The Braves were led offensively with homeruns from Cash and Manning.

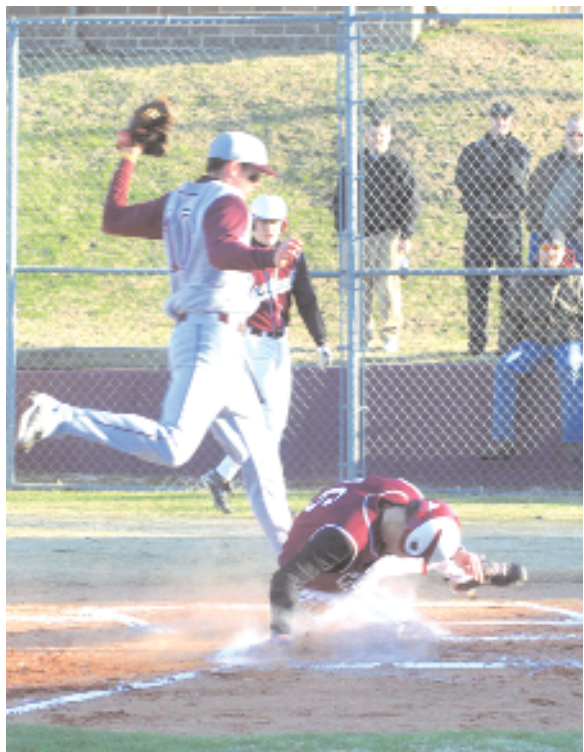
The Braves came back strongly, though. On Senior Night, the Braves crushed the Macon County Bulldogs 13-0 in five innings. Senior Zach

Janney got the win, and the Braves were led offensively by Jake Yates who went 4-4. From April 21 through April 27, the Braves played the Lamar County Trojans, the Crawford County

Eagles, and the Spencer Green Wave and won by a combined score of 46-7. In those three games, Cash, Lowery, and Cannon each earned wins.

## 2009 Baseball Roster

#	Player	Grade	Position
1	Clint Lowery	12th	SS/P
2	Bryan Dunson	11th	OF
3	Jake Yates	12th	3rd/2nd
4	Justin Norris	11th	OF
5	Trevor Spradlin	10th	C/IF
6	Brandon Manning	12th	OF
7	Wesley Cannon	12th	1st/P
9	DeAunte Holloway	10th	OF
10	Tyler Cash	12th	SS/P
11	Clay Holtzclaw	12th	OF
12	Tyler Spradlin	10th	OF/P
14	Jarret Gray	10th	OF
15	Casey Smith	12th	OF
16	Ryan Bussey	10th	2nd/SS
17	Luke Robinson	12th	C/3rd/P
20	Zach Janney	12th	2nd
21	Randall Lipford	10th	3rd/P



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