

Eyes on the Braves at GCSU
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Ahead of the 2026 Major League Baseball season, students at GCSU are sharing their expectations and predictions for the Atlanta Braves as the team prepares to take the field at Truist Park, just over 100 miles from GCSU campus.

Lacey Allen, senior interdisciplinary studies major, feels optimistic about the team heading into the season.

“I’m pretty confident in the Braves roster this season,” Allen said. “However, I am nervous for our players who are already injured and hope they can make a quick recovery.”

The arrival of warm weather and the beginning of the MLB season tends to bring a different atmosphere to campus. As opening day approaches, health is a key factor that plays into the season in determining how far the team goes this year.

“In January, I had the opportunity to attend the 2026 Braves Fest Gala and Braves Fest at The Battery,” Allen said. “Getting to meet players and walk the field made me even more excited for this season.”

This event gave Allen a greater appreciation for the team’s behind-the-scenes preparation and boosted her confidence in the roster heading into this year’s season. The chance to meet numerous players and experience the atmosphere of the event made the season feel more real and exciting for fans like Allen.

While Allen’s behind-the-scenes experience increased her excitement for the season, others are concerned about how offensive production will be the deciding factor in this season’s success.

Kyle Giglio, junior exercise science major, kept last year’s struggles in the back of his mind when thinking about the Braves’ performance and flow.

“Our offense really needs to improve if we want to make it to the postseason,” Giglio said. “We couldn’t generate any momentum last season, but the offseason trades will hopefully give us the roster to go the distance.”

Still, Giglio remains realistic about the team’s outlook, addressing that staying healthy and making the right adjustments will be key to turning potential into results this season.

“I don’t have very high expectations for this season. Especially after what I saw last year,” Giglio said. “If we keep our pitching staff healthy and find replacements from our farm system, we can make something happen.”

On the other hand, some students are simply looking forward to the experience of being in the stadium this season. Many students believe that attending games and being part of the Braves’ fan community makes the season feel even more special.

“Truist Park’s atmosphere is so unique because of how die-hard the fans are,” said Ella Kinkaid, a junior nursing major. “The stadium is so full of life with their firework celebrations, crowd interaction, and the Home Depot tool races.”

Truist Park has so many amenities for every type of fan, as well as the battery now being a factor for a perfect Braves gameday experience. Multiple restaurants now include bowling alleys and even indoor golf simulators. They provide a vast amount of activities for students and families coming to support.

With the first game of the 2026 season set for Saturday, Feb. 21 at 1:05 p.m., GCSU fans are already counting down the days, hoping their team can turn pre-season excitement into postseason success.