



All-Hillsborough football

BY EDUARDO A. ENCINA AND KEITH NIEBUHR | Times Staff Writers

First team

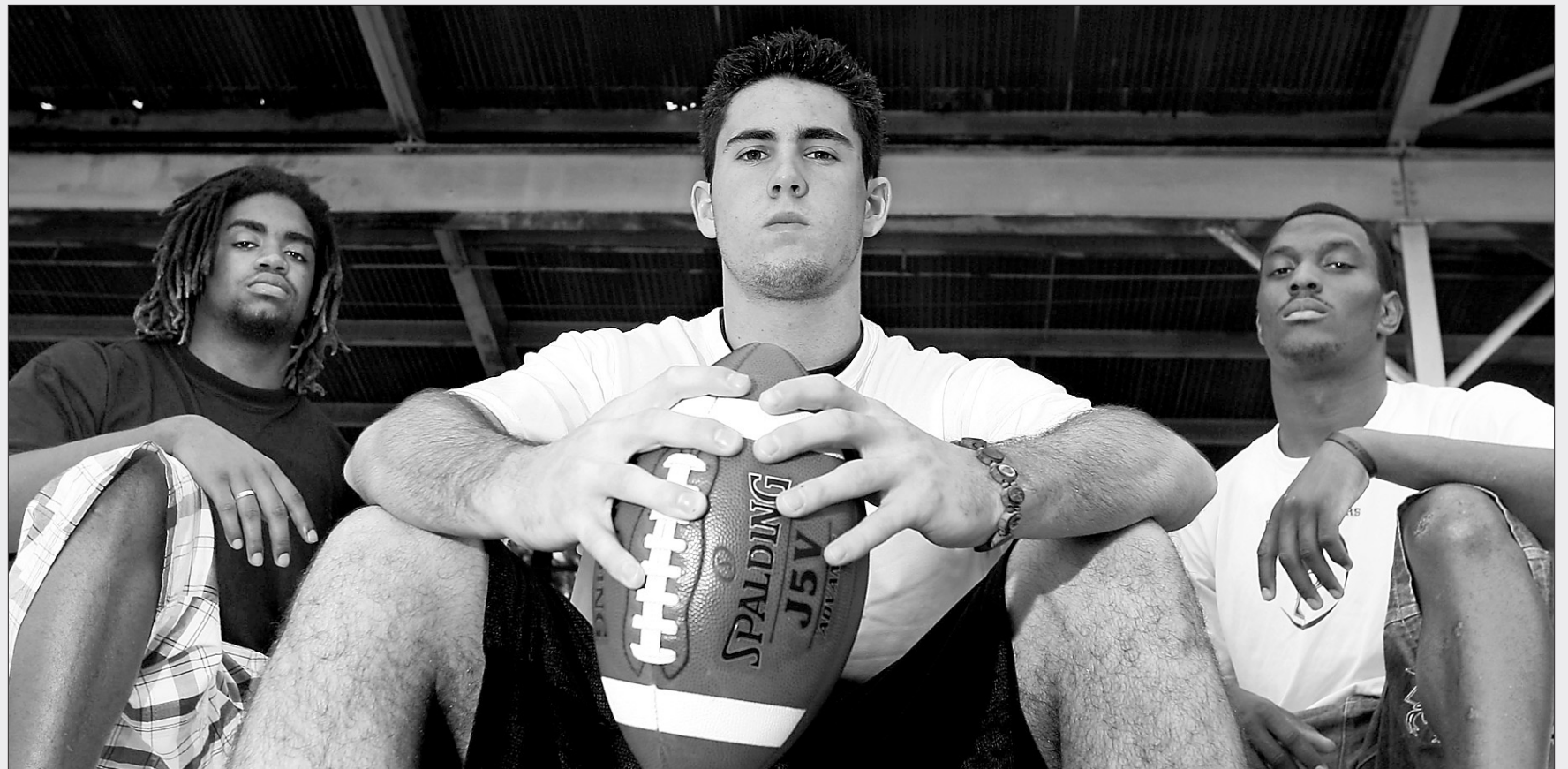
Offense

- QB Dontae Aycock, Chamberlain, Sr.:** Dual-threat star accounted for 45 touchdowns
- OL Darren Baker, Hillsborough, Sr.:** Standout left tackle has tremendous upside
- OL Justin Cabbagestalk, Armwood, Sr.:** Vanderbilt commit anchored line
- OL Jarrod Gant, Jefferson, Sr.:** Technically sound tackle is likely Division I-A recruit
- OL Cole Gilliam, Durant, Sr.:** Cougars star was run-blocking bulldozer
- OL Conor O'Neal, Newsome, Sr.:** Two-way starter keyed running game
- RB Lindsey Lamar, Hillsborough, Sr.:** Speedy star averaged more than 11 yards per carry
- RB Kenny Allen, Chamberlain, Sr.:** Reliable back produced 1,351 rushing yards
- RB Jarvis Giles, Gaither, Sr.:** When healthy, is among nation's elite tailbacks
- WR Allen Sampson, Plant, Jr.:** Great hands, and even better after the catch
- WR Anthony Williams, Chamberlain, Sr.:** Big-play threat had 13 TD receptions
- UT Mywan Jackson, Armwood, Sr.:** QB was terrific run-pass threat
- TE John Plasencia, Jesuit, Sr.:** Northwestern commit can catch and block
- PK Tyler Rhodes, Plant, Sr.:** Combined strong leg (10 FGs) with great accuracy

Defense

- DL Demonte McAllister, Alonso, Sr.:** FSU commit had 19 sacks and 97 tackles
- DL Theodore Jackson, Armwood, Jr.:** Terrorized in first year as starter
- DL Alton Bailey, Armwood, Jr.:** One of county's top run stoppers
- DL Dontavious Pyron, Chamberlain, Sr.:** Great speed for his size
- LB Petey Smith, Armwood, Sr.:** Among nation's top LBs
- LB Mike Mirabella, Plant, Jr.:** Tallied 12 sacks and 104 tackles
- LB James Wilder, Jr., Chamberlain, So.:** Son of former Bucs RB has limitless potential
- DB Angelo Hadley, Armwood, Sr.:** Set school record with 19 career interceptions
- DB Jairus Jones, Wharton, Sr.:** County's leading tackler averaged 15.8 a game
- DB Hunter Baldwin, Plant, Sr.:** 122 tackles, two INTs, two fumble recoveries
- DB Antonio Wallace, Tampa Bay Tech, Sr.:** Speedster anchored one of county's top defenses
- UT Erick McGriff, Jesuit, Sr.:** Versatile player was Tigers' best athlete
- P Matt McLaughlin, Tampa Catholic, Sr.:** Pinned 11 punts inside the opponent's 20
- KR Colby Walden, Hillsborough, Sr.:** Average 18.8 yards per return, including one for 95 yards

Players of the Year



GEN YAMAGUCHI | Times

The talent is overflowing among this group, from left: Armwood's Ryne Giddins and Plant's Aaron Murray and Orson Charles.

Offensive Co-Players of the Year

Aaron Murray, Sr., Plant

Murray played only six games before a serious left leg injury appeared to end his season, but his return in the Class 4A state semifinal was an amazing one. Despite missing seven games, the 6-foot-1, 205-pound Murray is still the only county passer to have 30 touchdowns passes this season (vs. just four interceptions). He threw for an average of 275.3 yards a game and completed 60 percent of his passes. After throwing two touchdowns in the state semifinal win over Palm Beach Gardens Dwyer, Murray goes into this weekend's championship game just three TD passes short of passing Stephen Garcia's Hillsborough County career touchdown mark of 83.

Most impressive accomplishment: He has done so much on the field — an eight-touchdown game and a seven-touchdown game — but his most impressive feat was off it, where he accelerated the rehabilitation on his broken left fibula and dislocated ankle so he could return for the final two playoffs games.

College plans: Murray has finished classes for the fall semester and will graduate early so he can attend the University of Georgia for the spring semester.

Orson Charles, Sr., Plant

Charles arrived as a transfer from Riverview with a spotlight immediately on him. He had just 13 receptions as a junior, but when Murray was injured, Charles helped carry his team to the state semis. The 6-foot-3, 220-pound senior created a mismatch on every play. He caught a touchdown in 12 of the Panthers' 14 games. He averaged nearly 19 yards per reception and had four 100-yard receiving games and one 200-yard game. His 1,289 receiving yards and 19 touchdowns led the county. Oh, and he had six sacks at defensive end.

Most impressive accomplishment: In the Oct. 16 game against Hillsborough, when Murray was injured, Charles caught seven balls for 217 yards, both season highs, and two touchdowns in a 44-28 win.

College plans: He has nearly 40 offers but plans to take his official visits after the season. His list includes Miami, Florida, Florida State, LSU and Georgia, and he's being recruited as a tight end, receiver and defensive end.

Did you know? Charles, a devout Christian, prays inside his locker stall before every game, then again on the field for the safety of his teammates.

Defensive Player of the Year

Ryne Giddins, Sr., Armwood

Giddins' numbers were down from his amazing junior season, but he still was the fiercest defender on arguably the best defense in Florida. While fighting off constant double teams and teams running plays away from him — “We tried to free him up all season long, moving him around,” defensive coordinator Matt Thompson said. “But everyone was always on him.” — the 6-foot-4, 230-pound Giddins is the total package of size and strength. For the season, Giddins had 75 total tackles, 21 quarterback hurries, five sacks and 10 pass breakups, anchoring a defense that pitched six shutouts during the season.

Most impressive accomplishment: In Armwood's region semifinal win over Tampa Bay Tech, Giddins scored two defensive touchdowns, one on an interception return and the other on a fumble recovery.

College plans: Giddins has narrowed his choices to Florida and USF. He's making an official visit to Gainesville this weekend.

Did you know? Giddins' girlfriend, Cierra Harris, a student at Brandon, is an aspiring model.

Second team

Offense

- QB: C.J. Bennett, Alonso, Jr.
 OL: Luis Polanco, Middleton, Sr.
 OL: Hunter Stout, Wharton, Sr.
 OL: Andrew Calvano, Alonso, Jr.
 OL: Chaz Green, Tampa Catholic, Jr.
 OL: Dillard Hurley, Armwood, Sr.
 RB: Maurice Hagens, TBT, Jr.
 RB: Jeremy Deering, Leto, Jr.
 RB: Conner Powers, Newsome, So.
 WR: Charles Lovett, Hillsborough, So.
 WR: Andre Davis, Jefferson, So.
 UT: Christian Green, Tampa Catholic, Jr.
 TE: Justin Lattimore, Gaither, Sr.
 PK: Evan Colborne, Hillsborough, Sr.

Coach of the Year | Robert Weiner, Plant

In his fifth season at the helm, Weiner has led the Panthers to the cusp of their second state title in three years.

Defense

- DL: Javon Mention, Plant, Sr.
 DL: Austin Clark, Plant, Sr.
 DL: Frank Marin, Newsome, Sr.
 DL: Coril Joseph, Freedom, Sr.
 LB: Rodney Williams, Spoto, So.
 LB: Greg Hickman, Middleton, Jr.
 LB: Beau Hume, Plant, Sr.
 LB: Casey Callahan, Armwood, Sr.
 DB: Javonte Martin, Plant, Jr.
 DB: Duran Lowe, Plant City, Sr.
 DB: Terrence Mitchell, Hillsborough, Jr.
 UT: Julian Crockett, Berkeley Prep, Sr.
 P: Montrey Pride, Blake, Sr.
 KR: Kyle Copack, Newsome, Sr.

Honorable mention

Alonso: Jesse Anaya, Justin Davis, Ian Hopkins, Alex Rodriguez, Ed Williams; **Armwood:** Tavarri Grant, Rob Jones, Sherman Jessie, Mario Williams; **Berkeley Prep:** Keith Bexley, Jordan Crockett; **Blake:** Micheal McFarland; **Bloomingdale:** Chris Curran, Derek Johnson, Justin Mann, Solomon Partin; **Brandon:** Ben Harrison, Ronnie Suggs; **Cambridge:** Micah Lewis; **Carrollwood Day:** Billy Embody; **Chamberlain:** Eric Hammond, Lamond Scott, Brandon Stanley, Rico Valdez; **Durant:** Austin Devall, Ryan Rice, Je'Twan Smith; **East Bay:** D.J. Allen, Jake Anaya, Chaz Burrows, Dontavious Fleming, Forrest Meredith; **Freedom:** Sherod Cunningham, Josh Grady, Keith Lewis, Carl Saunders; **Gaither:** Matt Childs, George Daines; **Hillsborough:** Jerod Brisbon; **Jefferson:** Terence Doston, Rodney Mills, Fred Overstreet, Mark Winters, Quentin Williams; **Jesuit:** Tyler Feely, Robbie Garcia, P.J. Hobson; **King:** Donovan Celerin, Adrian Federick, Travis Simmons, Corey Stulz; **Lennard:** Andrew Burdick, Blake Kennedy, Brandon Stephens; **Leto:** Antwoun Howard; Luis Herrera; **Middleton:** Andreel Coleman, Andre Gunn; **Newsome:** Trent Cornwell, Robby Young, Shawn Boone; **Plant City:** Denzel Drone, Cortez Hargrett, Eddie Rosenbaum; **Plant:** Marco Cobb, Phillip Ely, David Gamble, Bryant Jones, Josh Varon; **Riverview:** Ryan Gascon, Devin Ray, Willie Timmons; **Robinson:** Mike Hawthorne, Mike Newmann, Frank Williams; **Sickles:** Taylor Drane, Scott O'Donoghue, Cullen O'Brien, Jameel Gay; **Spoto:** Jamario Belton, J.B. Burgess, Alex Byers, Brandon Jenkins; **Tampa Bay Tech:** Markeil Floyd, D.D. Johnson, Sam Jones, Angel Rodriguez, Jerome Speights; **Tampa Catholic:** Michael Aguila, Kenny Broadnax, Brandon Green, Henry McCloud; **Wharton:** Chase Boswell, Andrew Clifford, Brandon Johnson, Trevor Match, Shane McEwen, Malik Williams

Football

What's in a name? Piccolo finds strength

BY KEITH NIEBUHR
Times Staff Writer

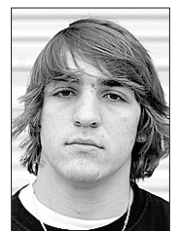
TAMPA — Sonny and Vicki Piccolo thought long and hard about names as the birth of their child neared in early 1991 before narrowing their choices to two: Albert and Brian.

Albert was the name of Sonny Piccolo's father. Brian was the name of his cousin, the former Chicago Bears running back he had idolized since childhood before the player died at 26.

“We really debated it,” Sonny Piccolo said. “We knew there could be a lot of pressure there, but we eventually went with (Brian) because we thought it would be more of an inspiration than a detriment.”

They couldn't have been more right.

Seventeen years later, Brian Piccolo, second cousin to the man



Brian Piccolo

FAST FACTS

State finals

All games at the Citrus Bowl in Orlando. Admission is \$10 per session.

CLASS 4A: Plant vs. Tallahassee Lincoln, 1 p.m. Saturday. **TV:** Sun Sports

STAY CURRENT: If you can't make it to Orlando on Saturday, we'll have live updates from the game at blogs.tampabay.com/preps/

whose life, death and courageous fight against cancer are chronicled in the movie *Brian's Song*, is a key member of the Plant football squad that will play for the Class 4A state title Saturday afternoon in Orlando. And much like his famous relative, he epitomizes the word “courage.”

Piccolo plays despite having diabetes.

“I take a shot with every meal,” Piccolo said. “And another at 7 p.m.”

By no means is Piccolo a star, but the senior is a special teams standout.

“He's really a guy that would run through a brick wall to make a play,” coach Robert Weiner said.

The way Piccolo sees it, he's lucky to be playing at all.

Three years ago, he began dropping weight at an alarming rate. He rarely was hungry, his body didn't feel right, and during a four-week period he dropped 30 pounds.

“Everyone else was getting big,” Piccolo said. “I was getting small.”

His family feared the worst. When Brian was diagnosed with diabetes, the Piccolos breathed a “sigh of relief,” Sonny Piccolo said, even though they quickly learned about the severity of the illness, which has serious long-term effects if not treated properly.

For Piccolo, the shots aren't fun. But playing football is.

Two years ago, he was a reserve during Plant's state championship run. Although he didn't dress in the final, he did receive

a ring. A year ago, his health was poor (he couldn't hold his weight) so he took the season off.

Now, Piccolo is back and making the most of it.

“For a guy like that to go through all that he has just to come out and play football, and be with his friends out here is really an inspiration,” offensive tackle/defensive end Austin Clark said.

As you might imagine, rarely does a day go by without someone asking Piccolo if he's related to the other Brian Piccolo. But that, he said, is a blessing.

“I definitely think it's cool,” Piccolo said.

Not long after the elder Piccolo died, the Bears gave the family a large portrait of him in action. Three decades later, the photo is on the wall in the bedroom of the second cousin he never knew.

As a child, Sonny Piccolo looked up to Brian Piccolo.

As an adult, he still does. Only it's a different Brian Piccolo.

“He has owned (diabetes),” Sonny Piccolo said. “Honestly, he's my hero.”

SCOREBOARD

BOYS BASKETBALL
 Pinellas Park Shootout
 River Ridge 43, Spoto 29

BOYS SOCCER
 Berkeley Prep 2, River Ridge 1

On the Web

Have a question for one of our prep writers? Want to sound off in response to one of our county-by-county writers' blogs? For this and more, check out our high school sports blog at <http://blogs.tampabay.com/preps/>.

Send us your photos

Have a great photo from a game that you'd like to share with online readers? Take a picture and e-mail it to submit@tampabay.com. Your subject line becomes the title of the photo and the body of your message becomes the caption. Files must be JPEGs and less than 700K in size. Photo galleries will be linked from high school sports page on tampabay.com.

Expanded results

For box scores, visit highschool.tampabay.com.

On tap today

BOYS SOCCER
 Cambridge at All Saints, 6

GIRLS SOCCER
 Cambridge Chr. at Seffner Chr., 4
 Sarasota Holiday Classic (Bloomingdale, Plant, Wharton, Tampa Prep, Newsome)

GIRLS BASKETBALL
 Keeler Memorial at Tampa Catholic: Tampa Prep vs. Freedom, 1; Dunedin vs. Wharton, 2:30; Chamberlain vs. Sunlake, 4; Lake Gibson vs. Plant, 5:30; Gaither at Tarpon, 7; Sarasota Chr. vs. Sickles, 8:30
 Seffner at Cambridge, 5:30

BOYS BASKETBALL
 Seffner at Cambridge, 7
 Jesuit at CCC, 7:30
 Admiral Farragut at Sickles, 7:30
 Sarasota Riverview at Durant, 7:45
 East Bay at Sarasota, 7:45
 Riverview at Lakeland, 7:45
 Pinellas Park Shootout: Spoto vs. Pinellas Park, 7:30
 Brighthouse Shootout at Clearwater: Admiral Farragut vs. Freedom, 3
 Carrollwood Day at Citrus Park Outback Invitational at Berkeley

WRESTLING
 Graves Invitational at Brandon Gulf Holiday Duals (Pasco, Wiregrass Ranch, Tampa Prep, Zephyrhills, Land O'Lakes, Ridgewood, River Ridge)