

# Blairsville native Robby Brown returns to NFL as Miami QB Coach

By Todd Forrest  
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**Miami Gardens, FL** - The Miami Dolphins have searched high and low for the next Dan Marino or Bob Griese for more than two decades, but the wait feels more like two centuries to the Super Bowl-starved city.

Following the Dolphins' 5-11 campaign a year ago, Robby Brown, a 1999 Union County High School graduate, was brought to Miami to serve as the team's quarterback coach under second-year coach Brian Flores and incoming offensive coordinator Chan Gailey.

With a pair of potential franchise quarterbacks (LSU's Joe Burrow and Alabama's Tua Tagovailoa) within reach of Miami's fifth overall pick in last spring's NFL Draft, Flores tabbed Brown as the potter assigned with molding the QB-clay entrusted to erase 35 years of gridiron-agony in South Florida.

Brown, who played quarterback under Gailey at Georgia Tech, knew that he couldn't turn down his former coach when Gailey notified him that the Dolphins were interested.

"I remember that day (very well)," Brown said. "I got a text from Coach Gailey, it didn't have any details, it just said, 'can you talk in a little while?'"

Gailey told Brown that Coach Flores would be reaching out very soon. Something the former Union County quarterback didn't see coming.

"I was shocked, I had just moved to West Virginia and only been there seven months," said



Robby Brown (L) and Miami's first-round draft pick Tua Tagovailoa during a Dolphins' practice earlier in the year. Photo courtesy of Miami Dolphins

Brown, who was wrapping up his first season as a member of the University of West Virginia coaching staff. "So I definitely wasn't expecting it."

Instantly, Brown broke the news to his wife and asked her opinion. But, in truth, his mind was already made up.

"This was actually the first time that I've said 'yes' (to a job) without sitting down and having the husband-wife conference with her," Brown laughingly admitted. "She was sick and lying in bed with the flu, but she was excited for me. We had discussed it after I got the text from Coach Gailey, so she knew something was up."

"We like it a lot (in South Florida). The weather is obviously great down here in January and February, but it can start to get really warm in March, but we've enjoyed it.

It's a neat place to live. We live in Broward (County), about 45 minutes north of Miami, pretty close to the facilities (in Miami Gardens)."

As for his seven months in West Virginia, Brown had no intention of leaving and enjoyed working with old colleagues from his days at Troy University.

"I was around a bunch of friends, a lot of guys I started in the business with, and they are all good people," he said. "We weren't looking to leave, but (Miami) was an opportunity that I couldn't pass up."

With Brown arriving in the Sunshine State months ahead of the draft, the upcoming pick took on added significance for the brand new QB coach hoping to deliver Miami its first All-Pro quarterback since 1995 (Marino).

As expected, the Heisman Trophy winner Burrow went first overall to Cincinnati, so the Dolphins handed the keys to Tagovailoa with the No. 5 pick.

However, the pressure isn't squarely on the 2018 College Football Playoff National Championship Offensive MVP with the Dolphins adding free-agent QB Ryan Fitzpatrick, who's familiar with Brown and Gailey after the trio spent two seasons together with the New York Jets (2015-2016).

"I believe you learn something everywhere you go, so that will help [me coach both] of those guys," Brown said, discussing what he learned from each of his coaching stops and what he brings to Miami as a result. "It's always good to try and learn something and take a little bit of information from whoever that may be."

"I just want to go out there and do the very best I can do for Coach Flores, Coach Gailey and our quarterbacks," he said.

For most Dolphins fans, Brown enters as an unknown. So when asked to summarize himself in one sentence, Brown said he just wants to be defined as a God-fearing, blue-collar guy from Blairsville.

"I'm proud of where I'm from and I think that shapes you into who you become," he said. "Whether it's [something you learn at] First Baptist Church or Coach (Brian) Allison teaching you toughness or something from your mom and dad. Both of my parents are hard workers, so I'm proud of where I come from and proud of the people that influenced my life and helped me become who I am as an everyday person."

He also credited Coach Allison for providing a solid foundation to his coaching career.

"[Allison and I] used to meet in the morning, and we'd go over the run game and the run checks; he was just a smart football coach," Brown said regarding his high school days. "[Allison] has won [at Union County] running three different offenses and he does what his guys can do best. He always taught toughness and how to play the game the right way, so playing for him was a big learning experience when I was at a time in my life when you're still learning how to do things."

The Dolphins are currently 1-2 on the year following two narrow losses to start the year. Miami cracked the win column in Week 3 with a 31-13 Thursday night victory at Jacksonville.

In the meantime, he hasn't set any goals or given much thought to what he would consider a successful season.

## Your 2020-21 Union County High School Homecoming Court

Homecoming photos by Todd Forrest



Katie Baumeister - SR



Braydi Burnett - SR



Allison Colwell - SR



Allie Cox - SR



Chloe Truex - SR



Allie Brey - JR



Mia McCombs - JR



Tori Tracy - JR



Molly Kay West - JR



Caroline Karnes - SO



Sophie Truex - SO



Micana Wooten - SO



Kyra McKechnie - FR



Senior members of the 2020-21 UCHS Homecoming Court



Junior members of the 2020-21 UCHS Homecoming Court



Georgia Patton - FR

### Old Union Women's Golf Association Club Championship

As the Old Union Women's Golf Association comes to a glorious end for this season, the ladies will compete in the second round of their Club Championship on Monday, September 28. Round One is in the books with twenty two ladies participating. After the first round, those ladies in the lead are: Flight A is tied with Geni Preece, Martha Zimmer and Nancy Outlaw each scoring 90 gross. Flight B, Mary Mott with a 88 gross. Flight C, Cattie Harper with a 93 gross. Flight D, Martha Quijano with a 96 gross. The tension is mounting and the Club Champion will be named soon. The Club Champion will win ap-

proximately \$100 along with having her name in the Georgia State Golf Association Magazine. She will also receive a special marked parking place at the club for the 2021 season.

After Round One, many of the members celebrated by going to Sicily's in Blairsville where they enjoyed each other's company and lamented the near end of their golfing season in the mountains.

Round Two of the Club Championship has been postponed to Friday Oct. 9, due to sanding of the greens at Old Union. Monday's game on September 28 will be Hate 'Em. Players will chose three of their most hated holes before the round starts, and write down a par for those holes. The one stipulation is that one hole must be a par 3, one a par 4 and the last must be a par 5. Handicaps will be applied but the scores will not be posted in Ghin.

For the next few weeks, Mary Holmes continues to offer

Golf Clinics at Old Union Golf Course. The cost is \$20 plus range ball. Max number in a group is six, and the clinics are an hour long. Mary will have two classes: the first one at 8 AM and a second clinic at 9 AM. You must sign up on the website to participate in the clinic. Mary Holmes was the ladies' golf coach at LSU, and we are delighted with her offer to lead the Golf Clinics. Sign up soon as the classes will fill up quickly!

The Old Union Women's Golf Association is now offering a new 9 Holes League which will also be played on Mondays. This league is perfect for those players who are new to the game, who may have time constraints or those players who want to play only 9 holes. Come join the best league in the North Georgia Mountains!

If you are interested and would like to come as a guest, or for more information, visit our website at [www.OUWGA.com](http://www.OUWGA.com) or call/text Karen at 352- 638-3649 or Cynthia at 706- 633-7587.

### Local Racing Report: Tri-County

By Blake Lynch  
Racing Reporter  
North Georgia News

**Brasstown, NC** - Tri-County Racetrack hosted a race with a full racing program plus Super Late Models. Here are the top three finishers from each class.

**FWD** - Coming in first place was No.32 Justin Queen.

**Crate/Limited** - Coming in first was No.7 Jason Deal. Coming in second was No.4 Levi Hicks. Coming in third was No.4L Danny Ledford.

**Modified** - Coming in first place was No.44 Bobby Elkins. Coming in second was No.81 John Howard. Coming in third

was No.37 Michael Barnett.

**Street Stock** - Coming in first place was No.x14 Charles Devine Jr. Coming in second was No.95 Alex Vance. Coming in third was No.12 Roger Beaver.

**Beginner 602** - Coming in first was No.22 Tucker Anderson. Finishing in second was No.44 Jay Lynch. Coming in third was No.55 Brad Sosebee.

**Super Late Models** - Coming in first was No.8 David Payne. Coming in second was No.38 Jamie Oliver. Finishing in third was No.x15 Shawn Chastain.

**Pony** - Coming in first place was No.01 Zack Sanders. Coming in second was No.104 Ricky Queen. Coming in third was No.16 Phil Wood.

### VFW and American Legion Fundraiser Golf Tournament

The VFW and American Legion in Hiawassee is having our 7th Annual Golf Tournament on Thursday, October 8 at 10 a.m. at Chatuge Shores Golf Course. Join fellow Veterans and supporters for a day of FUN and Golf. Cost is \$55 per person. Winning team will receive \$200 in cash! Contact Mel Halfon at 404-295-6462 for more information.



### Trout stocking sites week of September 21-25, 2020

Fannin: Rock Creek  
Note: Information is subject to change. Please call the hatchery at 706-838-4723 for questions. Stay up-to-date with stocking and events through Facebook [www.facebook.com/chattahoocheeforestnfh](http://www.facebook.com/chattahoocheeforestnfh). The hatchery also provides trout for the state. Please contact Georgia DNR for information on sites stocked by the state.