

Baseball from page 27

Wieters proved to be an impossible puzzle to solve for Duke's pitchers as he didn't record a single out for the second game in a row. Adding to the offensive barrage were Michael Fisher, Danny Payne and Greene who all homered for Tech. Throw in an impressive start by Blake Wood who threw six innings and gave up a single run while striking out six and a bullpen that only gave up a pair of runs when the game was well in hand in the final inning, and the recipe for a 19-3 rout was complete.

Tuesday against William & Mary Tech turned in another powerful performance. The Jackets were led by Jeremy Slayden's pair of home runs and six runs batted in. Overall the Jackets nailed six home runs in the contest against the Tribe.

Tim Gustafson recorded the win for the Jackets in his first career start. He worked five innings and allowed four earned runs. Freshman Tim Ladd was credited with the first save of his career. He pitched the final four frames for Tech and allowed only two hits.

Wednesday against Georgia Southern, Tech completed a four-game regular season sweep of the Eagles with a 17-6 win. Slayden had three hits and Greene drove in four runs for the No. 8 Jackets.

Ryan Turner earned the win for the Jackets by working five solid innings and only allowing two earned runs. He kept Georgia Southern to only four hits and struck out six in the victory.

For his superlative performance over the weekend Wieters was named ACC Player of the Week. Tech's sweep of Duke extends their winning streak in conference play to 19, which is a new school record and two short of the conference record. Tech will try to break that record when they play their first home conference series, hosting Wake Forest this weekend.

Intramural leagues restructured for fall

By Patrick Odneal
Assistant Sports Editor

Starting Fall 2005 the intramural sports program will have new divisions. The old divisions of A and B leagues for the men's sports will be collectively replaced by four new divisions: Fraternity, Housing, Graduate and Independent.

Each of these four divisions will still have their own end-of-the-season tournament, and the top two teams from each division will move on to a true "School Championship" tournament.

The Women's and Co-Rec leagues will remain unchanged, with each crowning their own champion. But the C league will be renamed "Recreation" and will not have a championship playoff system.

"I think having one men's school champion, having one women's school champion and having one co-rec school champion is the way to go," said Dan Hazlett, director of Intramurals.

"We're going to look to improve and increase the interest or the spotlight on the very first school championship. Right now we have a school champion, but we also have a B-league [champion.] There's [sometimes] the question: could the B-league champion compete with the A-league champion?"

But having two champions was not the main reason for the changes from two separate A and B leagues to the new system of four divisions who will face off at the end of the season

to crown a single champion.

The new divisions are designed to better accommodate the changing constituency of intramural participants. Over the past few seasons, the number of independent A teams has been dwindling while the B league and graduate participation has been steadily increasing.

"[There's been] a decent increase in graduate student participation, and I wanted a way to reach out to them. Right now we throw them in like everybody else, and we probably shouldn't do that especially with Georgia Tech's vision in the future to increase the number of graduate students on our campus," Hazlett said.

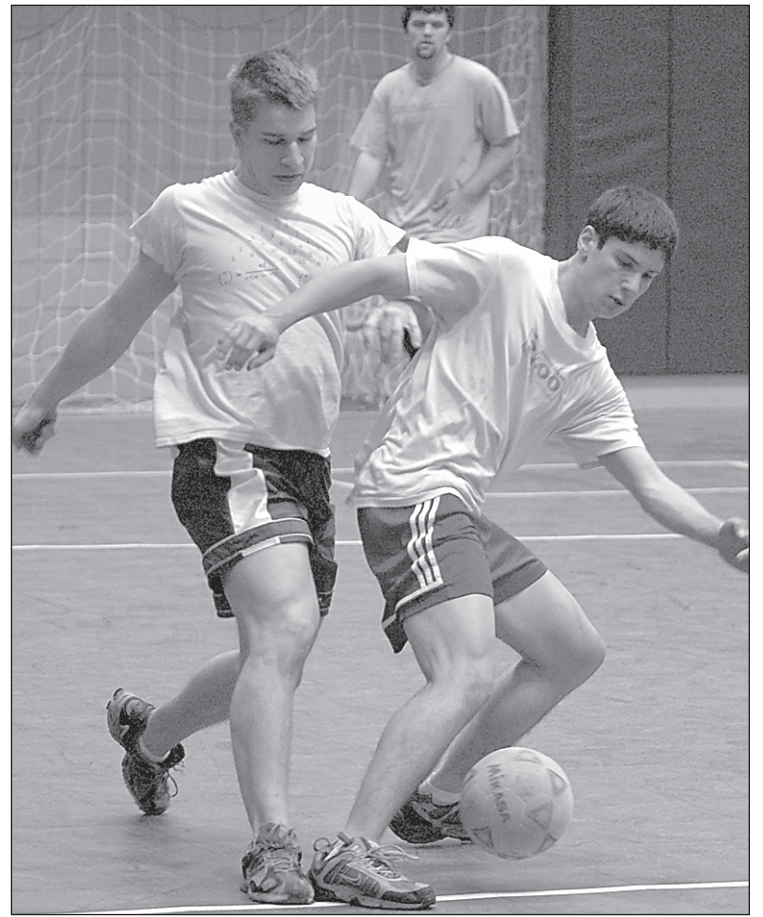
Freshman participation is also up this year.

"We had a pretty decent increase in freshmen this year. I think the [new] building obviously helped us

out in getting people over here, but perhaps there was also an increase from the advertising we did prior to the beginning of fall, because typically freshmen don't really get going until second phase of fall," Hazlett said. "They were the largest group to participate in the fall."

According to Hazlett, the idea of restructuring the program started last year when Josh Davis, the graduate assistant for Intramurals, noticed the shift in participants.

An intramural "think tank" was formed with the goal of examining the current structure and determining if a different format would be better. The group consisted of rep-



By Ethan Trehwitt / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The intramural leagues will be reclassified next year. Four divisions replace A league and B league, and C league becomes "Recreation."

resentatives from Housing, players from independent and fraternity teams, graduate students and intramural supervisors.

In the coming years the intramural program may develop an "IM Cup" for the Graduate and Housing leagues. It would work similarly to the points competition that IFC runs for fraternities, with a running points total that incorporates all intramural sports from fall to spring.

Such a system already exists at other campuses, and Hazlett hopes that in the coming years an IM Cup would generate the same level of

interest for housing as there is currently for fraternities.

The points for both the IM Cup and the IFC competition could be posted online through the CRC's website so athletes could check the running total of where their teams stand.

In addition to creating the groundwork for an IM Cup, Hazlett and his crew are still working out the details of the new system, like how the registration process will work. All plans will be finalized by mid-summer, ready for Phase I next fall.

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Lady Jackets conclude season



By Julia Bunch / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The women's team fell to Florida State 51-49 in the final home game this season. The young team has great promise for next year.

By Vishal Patel
Contributing Writer

Losing on consecutive buzzer beaters was not the easiest way to end a season emotionally for the

young Lady Jackets.

First it was Holly Johnson, who hit a three with less than 10 seconds in regulation to defeat the Jackets in their last regular season game against Florida State.

Then it was Tamara Jones, the leading scorer in the ACC, who hit an amazing shot with less than two seconds left to clinch the win for the Lady Hurricanes against Tech in the ACC Tournament.

The Hurricanes advanced to play North Carolina only to lose to the would-be champions of the ACC Tournament.

Although the team had a rough first half of play, Tech did not give up.

The Lady Jackets rallied after halftime behind three-point barrages from freshmen Chioma Nnamaka and Jill Ingram to go on a 14-2 run and to close to within 54-52 with barely three minutes left in the contest.

Not to be outdone, fellow freshman forward Janie Mitchell came off the bench to score a game-high 21 points for the Lady Jackets. Mitchell hit a jump shot with five seconds remaining to tie the game at 58.

Unfortunately for the Jackets, Jones responded with a clutch shot of her own to end the season for Tech.

Although the season ended early for the Lady Jackets, the season was not a disappointment by any stretch of the imagination. The Jackets overcame preseason predictions that they would finish 10th in the ACC, the lowest prediction ever for the school. The leadership of the upperclassmen and the talent and growing maturation of the freshmen have made looking forward to next season all the more interesting.



By Jon Drews / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Rugged Match: Tech's rugby team challenged Bowling Green in a home match last weekend. Tech's next match is Saturday at Lee University. The Jackets will head to Fort Lauderdale, Fla. over spring break from March 20-26 for their spring tour.

Women win again



Dasha Potapova hits a groundstroke for the Jackets. Potapova is ranked No. 94 in the nation and the team is ranked No. 17 nationally.

By Patrick Odneal
Assistant Sports Editor

The women's tennis team downed South Alabama 5-2 last Sunday and improved their record to 7-2 in the dual match season. They also beat Clemson 4-3 on March 3.

For her performance against Clemson and against South Alabama, junior Lyndsay Shosho was selected as the ACC Women's Tennis Performer of the Week. Shosho and teammate Kelly Anderson won their doubles match before Shosho defeated Clemson's Richele LeSaldo 6-4, 6-2 to help give the Jackets the victory in the first ACC match of

the season.

Against South Alabama, the Jackets picked up the doubles point as the teams of Whitney McCray and Esther van Londen won 8-2 and Kristi Miller and Alison Silverio won 8-6.

In singles action Miller defeated Andrea Kurekova 6-2, 6-3. Anderson won her match 4-6, 6-3, 6-1. Silverio and Shosho both won in two sets, winning 6-4, 6-4 and 7-6, 6-4 respectively.

The Jackets are now ranked No. 17 as a team, and Miller and Dasha Potapova are both ranked in the top 100 as individuals, ranking No. 24 and No. 94 respectively.

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pletely escape the injury bug this week; Hewitt sat Isma'il Muhammad out of Wednesday's practice before leaving for D.C. and says his playing status is a game time decision that will be Muhammad's in the end.

Muhammad has been bothered by patella tendonitis since last year's tournament run and has not recovered 100 percent.

"He'll be honest with me. Based on how he feels before the game he said he'll be honest with me...It's approaching the worst it's ever been for him [concerning his tendonitis]. It's bothered him the whole season. It's an interesting lesson for him realizing just how important your legs are in this game and how to take care of them," Hewitt said.

In his final press conference in Atlanta before the start of the postseason, Hewitt emphasized the team's ACC-leading defense, which ranks first in field goal percentage defense for the second consecutive year while ranking second in scoring defense.

"They consistently go out after you [on defense]; they are consistently concentrated [on defense]," Hewitt said. "We always talk in our locker room about how we don't allow your offense to impact your energy and concentration level on defense."

"In a tournament situation where it's a one and done situation, all it takes is one gap in your game, one three- or four-minute run that can put your season to an end or put your tournament hopes to an end," Hewitt said about the plethora of close games Tech has played in the latter half of the season.

On that note Tech is walking

a tightrope with 12 of its last 13 games decided by eight points or less, where Tech has posted a 6-7 mark. In Tech's last six wins they have only outscored opponents by 25 points cumulatively.

Despite the unfortunate number of injuries that occurred or reoccurred in some situations coupled with the setbacks in team chemistry those injuries induced, Hewitt knows

"If anything, the guys in our locker room this year are more frustrated at not being able to grasp what we know we're capable of doing."

Paul Hewitt
Basketball head coach

his team of seniors has been through rougher times. From seeing a low point in their college careers with home losses to Penn, Tulane and IUPUI before starting the ACC 0-7 as freshmen, Elder, Muhammad, Anthony McHenry and Luke Schenscher turned it around for a Jackets squad that fought furiously in its last nine games, winning seven of them in Hewitt's first season.

They improved as sophomores with the addition of point guard Jarrett Jack and now-departed Chris Bosh to earn an NIT berth, where they advanced as far as the quarterfinals, which set up their dream season of a year ago. With the addition of Will Bynum last year, the Jackets went farther in the

NCAA Tournament than any prior Tech team, falling one win short of being crowned champions. Now, as seniors, the group looks to get past the frustrations of this season and go out in style.

"If anything, the guys in our locker room this year are more frustrated at not being able to grasp what we know we're capable of doing. It's been frustrating for them. They know in real life that this team has overcome an awful lot, more than what past teams could have overcome," Hewitt said.

For those that are doubting Tech's ability to make a Final Four run this year because of offensive woes, the stats are comparable to last year's squad at the same point in the season. The Jackets ranked in the upper half in the ACC for both scoring average in all games and in conference games both last year and this year, where both teams ranked fifth in the ACC.

Another statistic that is comparable to last year is field goal percentage, which is only five-thousandths of a point off last year's mark of 46 percent, and both teams ranked third in the conference in that category.

Tech's assist average is actually slightly better than last year's and its turnover average is the same at 15.4 a game. The main difference on the stat sheet is Tech's shooting problems from downtown where they shot almost 37 percent last year compared to just 33 percent this year. This might be attributed to the loss of Elder for ten games.

Regardless of the team's record, the vibe in the locker room remains positive heading into the postseason.

"If we get in, we are as good as anyone in the country," Hewitt said.

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By Christopher Gooley / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Dana Rogers sprints for Tech in an outdoor meet. Rogers qualified for the NCAA Indoor Championships in the 60-meter hurdles.

Track goes to NCAAs

By Patrick Odneal
Assistant Sports Editor

The men's and women's track teams conclude their indoor season this weekend at the Indoor NCAA Championships in Fayetteville, Ark.

Last Saturday the Jackets went to South Bend, Ind. to compete in the "Last Chance" meet at Notre Dame. Six athletes earned NCAA provisional marks or better at the meet.

Andriane Lapsley ran the 60-meter dash with a time of 7.39, a lifetime best and NCAA provi-

sional time. Dana Rogers earned an NCAA qualifying time of 8.21 in the 60-meter high hurdles. She finished first place at the meet with this personal-best time.

Brandy Depland jumped 42'4" in the triple jump to finish third. Fatmata Fofanah ran an 8.37 in the 60-meter hurdles which is an NCAA provisional time.

Shantia Moss earned an NCAA provisional mark in the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 8.28. On the men's side, junior Montrell Person ran a season-best time of 7.77 in the 60-meter hurdles for an NCAA provisional mark.

Baseball extends ACC streak

By Joseph Jeong
Contributing Writer

Tech opened their conference season in fine fashion as they swept Duke in three games over the weekend in Durham. The Jackets improved to 11-2 for the season and 3-0 in conference play behind some good pitching and even better hitting. Freshman Matt Wieters was the star of the weekend as he had 12 hits, including a grand slam, in the series. All of the Tech starters on the mound picked up wins and deservedly so as they gave up just two earned runs all weekend. Ironically it was Tech's ace, Jason Neighborgall, who was guilty for the pair of runs.

Neighborgall remained unbeaten for the season as he threw five effective innings to pick up the win in the opening game. He did give up six hits and five walks, but he got Duke out when it mattered as he punched out a career high 12 batters to escape with only two earned runs allowed. Third baseman Wes Hodges did not display his usual power, but he did get on base with every at-bat with four hits and two walks.

Tyler Greene hit Tech's only home run in the fifth, and Wieters warmed up his bat for the series with three hits including a RBI double in the third. Behind Neighborgall's arm and Tech's strong performance at the plate Duke fell 11-3 in the first game.

Lee Hyde was the most impressive starter for Tech in this series; he pitched six shutout innings and fanned seven just giving up only three hits. Wieters replicated Hodges' performance from the first game, as he got on base everytime he was up with four hits and two walks.

The game was won behind Tech's timely hitting and strong pitching by Hyde. Tech managed to plate 11 runners on 17 hits with just three extra-base hits.



By Scott Medway / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The Jackets defeated William & Mary 17-8 on Tuesday afternoon following a sweep over the Duke Blue Devils in Durham, N.C.

Duke's Eric Baumann hit the only home run of the game in the seventh for Duke. Wieters almost undid all the good work he did with the bat when he came in to relieve Hyde in the seventh. Duke may have found no answer for Wieters' bat, but they had no problems with his arm as they lit him up for five earned runs on six hits in just 1.2 innings, giving Duke a glimmer of hope. Jordan Crews came in and shut the door on the

Blue Devils to get the last four outs and his first save of the season. Tech pulled the game out 11-5 when all was said and done.

Almost as if to make up for his poor pitching performance, Wieters went five for five, including a grand slam in the fourth, to help Tech comfortably secure a series sweep in the final game against Duke. Again,

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TECHNIQUE scavenger hunt HOW TO WIN!!

Fill in the blanks below with your answers to the clues. Do what the sentence says.

Show <news clue> <focus clue>
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FOR CLUE #1, SEE PAGE 2

SPORTS

Technique • Friday, March 11, 2005

REMIX MY CRIB?

Twelve Building Construction students help rebuild a house for the reality show *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*. Page 9

LIGHTNING STRIKES TWICE

The Lady Jackets ended the season with a pair of buzzer-beating losses to a pair of schools from the Sunshine State. Page 25



Hoops campaigns for NCAA bid in D.C.



By Jamie Howell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

B.J. Elder scored 17 points in the home finale against Clemson. Now the Jackets have their eyes on the ACC Tournament Championship.

By Vishal Patel
Contributing Writer

After ending the season on a high note by defeating the Clemson Tigers, Tech put itself in prime position to earn an NCAA Tournament bid as they head to the ACC Tournament at the MCI Center in Washington D.C. this week. In the first round today the Jackets look to avenge an early-season loss to Virginia Tech and fortify its NCAA Tournament hopes.

"As players, we just got to go out there and make plays," said starting forward Anthony McHenry. "We need to win this first game to get to the ACC Championship."

Today's game in D.C. will mark Tech's 26th appearance in the ACC Tournament, where the Ramblin' Wreck holds an all-time record of 17-22 and 2-4 under Coach Paul Hewitt. Tech has won the ACC tournament three times, all under former coach Bobby Cremins.

Tech has shown some promise as well as growing team cohesion since the return of guard B.J. Elder and freshman forward Jeremis Smith by

winning three of its last four road games and leading the one they lost to Wake Forest by double digits in the second half. The return of Smith helped the Jackets rebound their last seven opponents by almost two rebounds per game on average,

a stretch over which Smith has been averaging five rebounds a game.

"This team has overcome an awful lot to put themselves in a position where we're in discussion for an NCAA Tournament berth. We've overcome an awful lot, and if we are invited,

"This team has overcome an awful lot to put themselves in a position where we're in discussion for an NCAA Tournament berth."

Paul Hewitt
Basketball head coach

I have a lot of confidence that we can accomplish a lot," Hewitt said.

Tech is hoping its team's injuries to Elder and Jeremis Smith combined with its relatively stronger play in the ACC with the return of those players will make a good case for the NCAA Tournament Selection Committee to place them in the field of 65 on Selection Sunday. The Jackets have only played seven games in which all 14 players on the roster have been dressed.

Tech has not been able to com-

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sports shorts

Water polo excels in spring season

The Water Polo Club has racked up a pair of first-place finishes over the past several weeks.

In the Chris Young Memorial Tournament in Auburn, Ala. Feb. 19-20 the Jackets finished in first place by defeating Georgia, the Auburn Alumni, Auburn and Dynamo.

The Jackets earned their second championship in the UGA Spring Invitational in Athens. Tech defeated Clemson, UNC and Tennessee to make it to the finals. In the finals the Jackets once again faced Dynamo and emerged victorious 12-5 to win the tournament.

Jack garners All-ACC honors

Junior point guard Jarrett Jack was named to the All-ACC second team this season as selected by the Atlantic Coast Sports Media Association.

Jack led the Jackets in scoring at 15.9 points per game, which is 10th in the conference. The Fort Washington, Md. native is fifth in the ACC in assists, third in free-throw percentage, fourth in three-point percentage and sixth in field goal percentage.

The first team was comprised of Wake Forest's Chris Paul, North Carolina's Sean May and Raymond Felton and Duke's Shelden Williams and J.J. Redick. Redick, the ACC's leading scorer, was the leading vote-getter and the only unanimous selection to the squad.

Nnamaka earns All-Rookie spot

Freshman Chioma Nnamaka was selected to the ACC All-Freshman team for her performance over the past year.

The guard from Uppsala, Sweden was second on the Lady Jackets in scoring at 12.8 points per game, second on the team in rebounding and third in assists.

Enter 'Nique March Madness contest

Finally it's here! March Madness starts this week, and we think there's nothing better than a good old-fashioned tournament pick 'em contest. That's why we've decided to host one ourselves.

Compete against other readers for pride and possibly a sweet prize. For more information and to submit your picks check out www.nique.net/madness.

A bracket will be posted on Sunday night after the Field of 65 is selected and all picks must be submitted three hours before the first game on Thursday.

Softball bounces back in Buzz Classic

By Kyle Thomason
Sports Editor

Coming off of a four-game skid in the Leadoff Classic, the softball team bounced back over the past week by winning five out of six games in the Buzz Classic in Marietta, Ga. and taking both games of the Yellow Jacket Invitational in Atlanta.

The Jackets started off the Buzz Classic with a pair of victories over Winthrop and Purdue on Friday.

Freshman Whitney Humphreys pitched a complete-game shutout in the opener against Winthrop as the Jackets emerged victorious 2-0.

In the second game against Purdue, Jessica Sallinger continued her impressive work by tossing a complete-game two-hitter to help the Jackets defeat the Boilermakers 2-1.

Second baseman Aileen Morales drove in the tying run while right fielder Caitlin Lever brought in the winning run with two outs in the bottom of the final inning to rally the Jackets to victory.

On the second day of the Classic Tech came back with another impressive performance to give them the No. 1 seed in the tournament going into bracket play.

Against St. Louis, Sarah Wood threw a complete-game shutout and only allowed two hits. Against Mercer in the second game of the day Sallinger and Humphreys combined to shut out the Bears.

Christine Sheridan hit two home runs and drove in five runs on the



By Jamie Howell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Sophomore Caitlin Lever slides into second against Mercer in the Buzz Classic. The softball team won five out of six games in the Buzz Classic before losing in the semifinals to Ohio State 5-3.

day to lead the Jackets' offensive production. The team exploded off hot once again with an early 3-0 lead, but the Jackets were unable to stay on top. Ohio State scored five runs in the last two innings against Sallinger to record the win, 5-3.

The Jackets returned to the friendly confines of Glenn Field to host the Yellow Jacket Invitational

In the semifinals against the Ohio State Buckeyes, Tech started off hot once again with an early 3-0 lead, but the Jackets were unable to stay on top. Ohio State scored five runs in the last two innings against Sallinger to record the win, 5-3.

The Jackets returned to the friendly confines of Glenn Field to host the Yellow Jacket Invitational

on Wednesday.

The Jackets steamrolled Boston 12-0 in the first game. Sallinger tossed her fifth shutout of the year against the Terriers. The team then beat Oakland 7-4.

Katie Donovan led the attack for the Jackets by driving in four home runs. Amy Hosier drove in four runs against Oakland.