

SPORTS

Technique • Friday, June 14, 2001

Tech takes super regionals

Georgia Tech dominates Florida Atlantic University in the NCAA Super Regional to earn a trip to the CWS. Page 15

Georgia Tech of the North?

Try your hand at figuring out that it is in Joey Katzen's latest crossword stumper. It's better than lecture; we promise. Page 11



by the numbers

2

Number of times Georgia Tech men's baseball team has advanced to the College World Series. Their first appearance was in 1994 and their second will be at 2pm today against South Carolina.

5

Number of members on the Georgia Tech men's baseball team to be drafted in the first 18 rounds of the Major League Draft.

67

Score that junior golfer Troy Matteson scored on the final day of competition to become the first Yellow Jacket to win the NCAA Individual Championships.

8

Number of incoming freshman student-athletes, seven men and one woman, to commit to the Georgia Tech swimming and diving teams.

46

Number of times that Georgia Tech's men's baseball team has faced the South Carolina Gamecocks. The last meeting was in Myrtle Beach in February, which resulted in an 8-3 Gamecock win.

100+

Number of superstitions that Georgia Tech men's baseball shortstop Victor Menocal claims to have. Menocal was named Most Valuable Player in the recent NCAA Atlanta Regionals.

on deck

Event	Date
College World Series	6/14 - 6/22
GT vs. South Carolina	6/14
2 p.m.	
loser plays Game 5	6/16
1 p.m.	
Winner plays Game 6	6/16
5:30 p.m.	

Next stop: Omaha!

Baseball team heads to the College World Series for only second time in school history



By Robert Hill / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

(At Left) Jeff Watchko and Wes Rynders hug after taking the regional from FAU, sending Tech to the College World Series. (At Right) The Joltin' Jackets celebrate after the Jacket's 11-5 win. Georgia Tech's first game in Omaha will be Friday, June 14th at 2 p.m. against South Carolina.

By Al Przygocki
Senior Staff Writer

Usually June is a time for the Joltin' Jackets to deal with another disappointing end to a season of high expectations and low results by heading to the Cape Cod League, some other prospect league, or simply heading home for the summer. Not this time. Not this time.

Many in the preseason wrote off the Yellow Jackets, as they had to absorb the loss of many high round draft picks and were dealing with the largest freshman class in Tech baseball history. They took advantage of the opportunity and exceeded everyone's expectations except their own to find themselves in Omaha for the first time since 1994 and for only the second time in school history.

On finally getting over the hump and making it to Omaha, Head Coach Danny Hall commented, "It's huge. It's great for Georgia Tech. It's great for our fans. It's great for our players." Hall continued, "We have some upperclassmen who have been through some disappointments

in Regionals, and now it's their chance to go play on the big stage for the national championship and it doesn't get any better than that."

Senior third baseman Matthew Boggs explained the mindset he shared with fellow seniors Victor Menocal and Wes Rynders. "Last year, I think everybody in the country thought we would be in Omaha, and things just didn't work out for us the way that we wanted them to. We said after the season was over and it was just us three coming back that we weren't going to let that happen to us again. This year we were just going to be about team and winning." Boggs added, "we thought we had a chance. I know nobody else in the country thought we had a chance, but we believed in ourselves."

The Jackets begin the push towards Tech's first national title with a matchup against South Carolina. The two teams met early in the season with the Gamecocks coming out on top 8-3. Tech will face a different starting pitcher this time, as USC will send its top lefthander Gary Bell in an attempt

to shut down Tech's left handed bats.

"Bell's a guy we've never seen. We're trying to gather as much information as we can on him, before we get out there, but I know he's been one of their best pitchers," said Coach Hall. "He'll be ready to go, their team will be ready to go, and I think we've changed a lot since we played them... It's a different stage, both teams are different, and certainly different stakes since the last time we played them."

In the second round, the Jackets will meet either Nebraska or fellow ACC member Clemson. If Tech faces Clemson, the Jackets will have a chance to settle the season series as the teams have split the four previous meetings and tie up one of the longest series in the nation as the Tigers hold a one game lead in the 100-year-old rivalry.

"It'd be a case where both teams would be very familiar with each other, and I guess we could settle the season series," said Coach Hall. "If that happens, that would be great. Hopefully, it would be in the winners' bracket, meaning that both of us

have won, and that would be great for the ACC. We need to take care of South Carolina and see what happens there first."

Going to Omaha will be special to both pitcher Kyle Bakker and first baseman Jason Perry. "It means a lot to me, because that's where I was born," said Perry. "That's where my parents grew up, and my whole family is out there. I have 30 plus cousins there. Ten aunts and uncles are going to be there. My grandparents are going to be there. My great-grandma's going to be there." Perry continued, "It's just going to be amazing to be able to play in front of my family like that."

Catcher Tyler Parker is enjoying the relaxed atmosphere of having already made it past the major league draft and the experience of playing baseball without having to attend classes.

"It's pretty much perfect," said Parker of the Jackets' days. "We've got a beautiful stadium. We don't have to wake up at 8 a.m. and go take a final before going to practice. It's like playing for a living, which we all want to do anyway."

Matteson swings for individual trophy, Jackets fall short for team

By Al Przygocki
Senior Staff Writer

Georgia Tech's golfers had an amazing season, but it may take a while for them to be able to think about that. After winning seven team tournaments and being ranked number one for most of the season, the Tech team came up just short in its quest for the one prize that continues to elude it, the National Championship.

"I just kept telling them to keep playing and to stay focused," said Heppler. "I'm proud of my guys. They won seven times this year and finished second at the NAAs. I don't think that's a sign of failure. My hat is off to Brad James and Minnesota. He did a great job of keeping them focused with all of the distractions there, and they played a phenomenal round of golf."

Minnesota came from three shots back on the final day to catch and pass Tech on the way to a four-stroke victory. The Big 10 school's program almost died out due to financial reasons before being bailed out by Tom Lehman, a Minnesota alumnus and PGA veteran, who made a substantial donation to help keep the program alive.

Lost in the disappointment of the second place finish was the fact that Tech finished in the top four at Nationals for the fourth time in the last five years and in the top ten for the eleventh time in school history. Tech's players also took home many individual honors to close out the season.

Troy Matteson capped off an amazing season by becoming the first Yellow Jacket to take home the

See *Golf*, page 15



By Robert Hill / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Troy Matteson won the Arnold Palmer Award, captured the NCAA Individual title, and was named to the All-America team.

Golf from page 16

Arnold Palmer award as an NCAA individual titleist, after shooting a 4-under par 67 on the final day to complete an 8-under par tournament. Matteson was named a first team GCAA All-American and won four individual titles overall this season.

“I played well today and stuck to my game plan all day,” said Matteson. “I just went out and tried to make as few mistakes as possible. It was shocking at first to think that I won the national championship, but it’s started to set in now. I’m glad that my parents and family were here to see me play and play well. I was fortunate to have some good breaks go my way today. Still, I would trade this for my four teammates to get to win this as a team with me.”

Seniors Kris Mikkelson and Matt Weibring also earned GCAA All-America honors, second team and third team respectively. The pair will leave Tech after contributing to 19 team titles, including a school-record seven this season.

This season, Mikkelson had six top-ten finishes and Weibring had five. Freshmen Chan Wongluekiet and Nick Thompson received Honorable Mention All-America accolades, and both were named to the GCAA All-Freshmen team. Wongluekiet also won ACC Rookie of the Year.

“You take the freshman year that these two kids have had and it’ll match up with anybody,” said Heppler. “A lot of that is because these older guys showed them how to go to school at Georgia Tech and be a student-athlete.

Head Coach Bruce Heppler took home his first GCAA National Coach of the Year honor to go along with his three ACC Coach of the Year awards.

“To have five guys play at an All-America level for an entire year is a great honor and it was a great treat for me to get to work with them this year,” said Heppler. “All five of them earned this honor for their play throughout the year, and I think that shows consistent effort and consistent success, which is the goal each year.”

Jackets dominate FAU in super regionals



By Robert Hill / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Freshman pitcher Kyle Schmidt throws against Florida Atlantic University Owls. Georgia Tech’s 11-5 win sends the Jackets to Omaha this weekend for their second trip to the College World Series since 1994.

*By John Parsons
Senior Staff Writer*

Tech advanced to the College World Series with a dominating sweep of Florida Atlantic University on June 7th and 8th, winning by 14-3 and 11-5 counts. The Jackets were able to combine solid starting pitching with hitting from all parts of the lineup to turn in one of their most impressive weekends of the year.

“You’ve got to look at teams over the course of the season, but in this two-game series, and it’s now officially a two-game series, Georgia Tech is the best team I’ve seen this year,” said Florida Atlantic coach Kevin Cooney after the Jackets victory in game two.

Kyle Bakker kept the dangerous FAU lineup off balance throughout the first game, taking a no-hitter into the sixth inning for the second consecutive start. He also retired ten Owls in a row at one point, with only two balls leaving the infield during that stretch. He finished with seven innings pitched and two earned runs allowed on six hits. He collected his 12th win of year with the victory,

against just two losses.

“Bakker was outstanding. He may have gotten a little tired, but he gave us seven strong innings,” said Tech coach Danny Hall of Bakker’s performance.

The Joltin’ Jackets broke the game open in the fourth and fifth innings,

“I’m just trying to keep a great swing and get momentum going for Omaha”

Eric Patterson
Second baseman

sending ten batters to the plate in each inning and tallying a total of eleven runs on nine hits. Right fielder Jeremy Slayden and designated hitter Clifton Remole paced the Jackets, combining for seven RBI and eight total bases in the fourth and fifth innings alone. The night was particularly sweet for Remole, who had been out of the lineup for the last five games. He was seeing the

ball well and collected three hits, including a homer, as a result.

“It looked like a freaking watermelon up there,” said Remole on seeing the ball well. “I don’t know what it was. I guess it was all the energy the team was putting forth. It was awesome, just awesome.”

It was more of the same in the second game, as Tech scratched out a run in the first and shut down FAU’s lineup early. Georgia Tech’s first inning run in each game came on a fielder’s choice in which the batter beat the throw to first to avoid the double play.

Florida Atlantic coach Kevin Cooney said of the first inning of the second game, “Deja vu all over again. It was their speed again. Like I said before, speed keeps things alive for teams. It’s a real tough thing to defend against and that’s one of the main things that hurt us.”

Chris Goodman turned in a solid start in the second game, also going seven innings and allowing just one unearned run on four hits. With the win, Goodman improved to 8-1 and lowered his ERA to 3.71.

“Chris Goodman tonight was outstanding,” Head Coach Danny

Hall said.

“He didn’t give them anything to get going, and it’s been that way really for all five postseason games.”

Second baseman Eric Patterson snapped out of an 0-24 to lead the Jackets offensively in the second game with five hits and five RBI, both career highs. Patterson was a homer short of the cycle after three at bats.

“After just breaking out of a slump, I’m not going to sit here and try to yank the ball out of the park and change my swing to hit a home run for the cycle,” Patterson said of the potential for a cycle.

“I knew I was a home run away from the cycle, but the cycle wasn’t very important to me. I’m just trying to keep a great swing and get momentum going for Omaha.”

Patterson stayed on top of his hitting, even with the Jackets up 10-1 in the top of the ninth, and lined a solid single to center to account for his fifth hit and RBI.

“Their second baseman played really well,” said Cooney of Patterson. “He’s a good little ball player.”

Matthew Boggs also had an excellent night at the plate collecting five hits and scoring three runs, while driving in a pair. He was not as conservative in his last at bat.

“I was thinking about trying to hit number two (home run),” said

“I was pretty much just swinging as hard as I could, and it found the bat.”

Matthew Boggs
Third baseman

Boggs. “I was pretty much just swinging as hard as I could, and it found the bat.”

He instead collected his 12th double of the year and a pair of RBIs. It was that kind of weekend for the Jackets.

For more baseball info visit <http://www.ramblinwreck.com>.