

# Basketball drops pair of heartbreakers on road trip

**By Asif Heerji**  
*Contributing Writer*

The away losing streak continued for the Jackets, as they lost two very close contests this week by a combined three points. The Boston College Eagles pulled out the victory 66-64 Sunday in Chestnut Hill, Mass. Two days later Virginia Tech won 63-62 in Blacksburg, Va. The Jackets (9-10, 2-6 ACC) are now 1-7 on the road, with the only win being at Centenary on Jan. 10.

The Jackets have been playing well despite finishing in the 'L' column, and the Jackets will have a chance to rebound against Miami (13-8, 5-3 ACC) and Florida St. (12-5, 3-4 ACC) this week, before hosting the first and second-place ACC teams, Duke and N.C. State later this month.

**Virginia Tech:** With 15 seconds left in the 63-62 loss to Virginia

Tech, Anthony Morrow stripped the ball from the Hokie guard Zabian Dowdell and quickly called a timeout with 12 seconds left and the game tied at 62.

After the inbound pass, Zam Frederick dribbled the ball down the court, and quick passes set up D'Andre Bell from just outside the arc. When Bell's shot missed with two seconds left, Jeremis Smith was able to tip the ball into the basket with only one-half second remaining. But as Smith and Morrow were celebrating on the court, the happiness turned to surprise as an over-the-back foul was called on Smith. By reaching over the shoulders of Deron Washington, Smith was called for the non-possession foul and gave Virginia Tech two free throws.

Washington made his first free-throw to give the Hokies the one-point lead. After a time-out,

Washington purposely missed the second free throw, to force the Jackets to take a full-court desperation shot. Smith rebounded the ball, but his full-court attempt fell short.

Sophomore forward/center Ra'Sean Dickey led the Jackets in scoring for the second straight game. He is starting to develop his offensive skills and is becoming a bigger threat in the paint. He made nine for 11 shots for 21 points and also pulled in nine rebounds.

Smith had another double-double, scoring 12 points and rebounding 14 times.

The Hokies were propelled in the second half by a 25-6 scoring drive that lasted from 16:21 to 7:05 left in the game.

The story of this run is the same thing that plagued the team in their previous five losses—ball control. Georgia Tech turned the ball over 17 times and Virginia Tech took

advantage, scoring 23 points off turnovers.

To start the game, the Hokies jumped out quickly and built a 10-point lead halfway through the first period. But Bell and Dickey led a charge back. The Jackets went on an 11-0 run starting with a Dickey inside jumper followed by a Bell inside jumper. After trading missed shots, senior center Theodis Tarver came up with the rebound. On the other end of the court, Frederick made a three-point jumper to pull the Jackets within two.

After yet another missed field goal for the Hokies, Lewis Clinch gave the Jackets the lead with a three-point basket. Both Tech schools traded leads before the end of the half until Morrow came up with a three-point shot followed by a Dickey lay-up. Another Morrow shot at the buzzer gave the Jackets a five-point lead at halftime.

With five minutes left in the game, Georgia Tech went on a 12-2 run to tie the game. The run was highlighted by an alley-oop from Frederick for a behind-the-back dunk for Smith.

**Boston College:** In the final six seconds of the game Clinch hit two three-point shots, but Boston College, led by strong free-throw shooting, won the game 66-64. The Eagles led for much of the game, but Tech was never too far behind.

Head Coach Paul Hewitt's quick substitutions and well-placed time-outs helped keep the Jackets in contention to win the game. But with just four seconds left, Tyrese Rice nailed two free throws to put the Eagles up by five points to secure the win.

The Jackets host Miami tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. and are looking for their 500th win at the arena and look to break their six-game losing streak.

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In the second period, FAU scored two girls.  
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I'll bite your legs off!



# Freshman Murton looks to follow brother's footsteps

By Asif Heerji  
Contributing Writer

Next week freshman Luke Murton will step onto the diamond and start his Tech baseball career while trying to meet the high standards which his older brother, Matt Murton, set just three years ago.

A four-year letter winner at Eagle's Landing High School in McDonough, Ga., 19-year-old Luke Franklin Murton was recruited as a power-hitting first baseman by Head Coach Danny Hall and recruiting coordinator Josh Holliday. He was listed as the 12th best high school prospect in the state of Georgia and posted an unheard-of 1.457 slugging percentage his senior year.

The 6'4", 226 pound 19-year-old also hit .446 in high school and was a member of the 2004 Connie Mack World Series Championship team.

Matt Murton, Luke's older brother and former Tech star, paved the way for his little brother's career

on campus.

Matt Murton spent three years at Tech, from 2001-2003, before he was drafted in the MLB first-year player draft by the Boston Red Sox. Over the summer, the older brother saw action in his first major league game, playing in 51 games in leftfield for the Chicago Cubs.

Even though they share the same genes, Luke has been gifted with more of a muscular build and possesses great power potential as opposed to Matt, who was very adept at using his speed on the base paths.

Matt was a member of the Jacket team that went to the 2002 College World Series and finished the season with a 52-16 record. Last year's Tech baseball team finished with a 45-19 record but was eliminated in super-regional competition.

"This is still one of the best baseball programs in the nation, and I am happy to be here and play for Coach Hall and Georgia Tech," Murton said.

Despite being acquainted with the Tech surroundings, Murton was still unfamiliar with the strong academics and needed some time to adjust to the rigors of Tech.

"Even though you don't spend as much time in the classroom as you do in high school, you definitely spend more time outside of the classroom, not just doing your homework, but studying and reading, because just going to class is not going to get it done," he said.

"At first I expected that I wouldn't have to attend all of my classes all the time, but I soon figured out that if I don't, I wouldn't be able to make it...very far...I learned that very quickly," Luke said.

The Jackets this season look to continue their strong tradition of winning and getting to post-season play as they return eight starters in the field and eight pitchers who played large roles in 2005.

Murton has ambitious, but not unattainable goals for the team this

year. "We try to take it one step at a time. First we want to win the ACC, then the ACC tournament, then get to Omaha. Once we are there, we want to get into the final series and win that as well."

To help the team get to the College World Series in Omaha, Neb., the first-base recruit will have to battle for playing time with incumbent starters Whit Robbins and Matt Wieters, who shared time at first-base down the stretch last season.

"When I was being recruited by Tech, they told me the same thing that they are telling me now, that they would love to have me here, and that they would use me where and when they needed me...and that I would have an opportunity to prove myself."

Both Wieters and Robbins spent time playing summer ball, in the Cape Cod League and with USA Baseball, respectively, and have made great strides from the 2005 campaign. Murton will have to show

that he is capable of producing out of the gate when he steps onto the field starting next week.

When older brother Matt was given the opportunity to play in the major leagues this summer, he made an immediate impact with the Cubs. In 51 games played, Matt had a .321 batting average and a .521 slugging percentage. With the rise of Matt in the majors, the status of the Murton family was immediately raised, and more pressure was placed on Luke.

"There was pressure on me before too. But once he was called up, it put more pressure on me. But at Georgia Tech a lot of the guys go to the minors and are given opportunities at the next level."

The Jackets look to defend their ACC regular season and tournament championship reigns as they open up the 2006 season next Saturday, Feb. 11 as they travel to Statesboro to face Georgia Southern. The home opener is Fri. Feb. 17 against Kennesaw State.

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# Club hockey team loses to Florida Atlantic 5-3

By William Bretherton  
Contributing Writer

This past weekend, the Tech hockey club faced the Florida Atlantic Owls and lost in a close match 5-3. The score does not tell the entire story, as the Owls got an empty net goal at the end of the game when the Jackets used an extra attacker to try to tie the game.

FAU scored first, and the Jackets would never have the lead in the game. Tech answered back only minutes after FAU's first goal and would end the first period tied.

In the second period, FAU scored two goals. One came on a power play, and the other came off of a Tech turnover in the defensive zone. The Jackets did answer back to make it 3-2, but that would not last long, as the Owls put up a goal near the end of the second period to give themselves a two-goal cushion going into the third period.

In the final period of play, FAU was able to hang on to beat the Jackets 5-3.

"They just beat us on some odd man rushes. We got a few good scoring chances. I would not say that we played a great game, but we played a solid game. They just took advantage of turnovers by putting everything in the net," left winger Kyle Stage said.

This was the first game for the

team since the Memorial Health Hockey Classic Jan. 13-14. The annual event in Savannah, Ga. features four teams—Tech, UGA, Florida and Florida St.—competing for the Thrasher Cup. For the second year in a row, UGA won the event by downing Tech on the second night of play.

This year, there were nearly 8,500

**"They just beat us on some odd man rushes....They just took advantage of turnovers by putting everything in the net."**

**Kyle Stage**  
Senior left winger

fans in attendance at the game. When compared with the average 100 to 300 fans that show up to regular season games at the Marietta Ice Center, it's easy to see why the event is so special for the team.

"When we go down there, we get treated like premium hockey players," team captain Michael Zaucha said. "The arena was sold

to capacity for the Saturday night game against Georgia. It was an amazing atmosphere to play in. The other thing is that kids will come up to you and ask for your autograph. We never get that at home."

Zaucha is a fourth-year mechanical engineering student who is the team captain as well as the president of the club team. He got his start playing hockey in the seventh grade when some of his friends back home in Delaware started playing pickup games. He eventually became more interested in the game and made it onto traveling squads. In high school, he had to decide whether to pursue his dream of being a professional hockey player or pursue a good education.

"Somewhere between sophomore and junior year of high school, I was going to have to decide to either stick with hockey or lean more toward education. I figured that concentrating on my education was much more certain at the time. Going pro in any sport is risky. I did not even apply to any of the northern hockey schools," Zaucha said.

Fourth-year left winger Kyle Stage is a native Georgian. He started playing hockey not on skates, but on roller blades. In the seventh grade, like Zaucha, he tried playing ice hockey but did not care for it. While at Forsythe Central High School in Alpharetta, he continued



By Jon Drews/STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

In the first game after finishing second at the Memorial Health Hockey Classic in Savannah, Tech lost to Florida Atlantic 5-3 on Saturday.

playing roller hockey for the team there. When he arrived at Tech, he learned of the ice hockey team and soon joined.

"I never really planned on playing here, but I found out that there was a team here. I became interested and joined up. It has been a lot of fun to this point. While playing with this group of guys, I have continued to improve," Stage said.

Next Saturday the team will face Kennesaw St., a main rival for the team. "In our last game against Kennesaw, we had three or four guys kicked out [for fighting], and they had four or five guys that were thrown out," Stage said. "Two years ago, playing Kennesaw was a nothing game, and now they are the team to beat. They are currently the number one team in the conference."

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**Classmates USA's** calendar model search. Spring Breakers can expect plenty more of the same this year with bikini and wet t-shirt/wet jockey shorts contests daily and nightly.

The Sandpiper is never short on big-time entertainment, hosting such acts as Bob Marley's Wailers, Tone Loc and other major acts. Tentatively scheduled for this year are the Black Eyed Peas performing on the beach behind the Sandpiper Beacon during Jay Leno's show. Metro Nightclubs is a Spring Break sponsor giving away swimwear and the Corona Beach Volleyball Tournament is scheduled to take place behind the Sandpiper this year. There will be entertainment all day and all night at the hotel throughout spring break.

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## SPORTS

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## HOOPS HEARTBREAKERS

Two road games this week came down to the last seconds of the game. Read how Tech ended up losing both. **Page 20**

## THE YEAR OF THE DOG

Tech's Chinese Student Association performed at the Chinese New Year celebration in Chamblee. **Page 12**



# Nnamaka and Higgs lead Jackets over Tigers

By Matthew Winkler  
Contributing Writer

The Lady Jackets (13-7, 2-5 ACC) hosted ACC rival Clemson (8-13, 2-5 ACC) Sunday as the Jackets prevailed over the Tigers 83-64. The Jackets looked to bounce back from a tough 79-71 loss at No. 6 Maryland on Thursday. Clemson won the previous meeting on January 8, 72-63 at Clemson.

Solid defense and good rebounding helped propel the Jackets to the win. Coach MaChelle Joseph has emphasized defense and rebounding all season, and the stats show the result of the team's hard work.

"All year long we've been leading the league in all the defensive categories and in the rebounding categories," Joseph said. "We're trying to build this program on rebounding and defense. As long as we do those two things well, we will have a chance to win."

The Jackets out-rebounded the Tigers 47-25. The Jackets capitalized with many offensive rebounds, scoring 21 second-chance points on 22 offensive rebounds. Janie Mitchell led Tech with 11 rebounds, with three other Tech players rebounding six each.

Joseph mentioned the strength of schedule as being another benefit to the team's play.

"We've worked on [rebounding] all year long, but I think the big thing that helped this team is that

we played three of the top six teams in the nation in the past 12 days," Joseph said.

The Jackets lost to No. 6 Maryland 79-71 and lost to No. 4 North Carolina 85-56.

"I told the kids you get better or you get worse, and we definitely got better from playing those teams," Joseph said.

The Jacket offense put up great numbers as well. The 83 points

**"...I think the big thing that helped this team is that we played three of the top six teams in the nation [recently]."**

**MaChelle Joseph**  
Women's Head Coach

against Clemson was the most points in a game for the team since January 2004.

Chimona Nnamaka led the Jackets with a season-high 22 points, with Stephanie Higgs earning 18 points. Freshman April Phillips also earned a career-high mark of 14 points, while also pulling in five rebounds. "I thought April Phillips stepped up big, and made some big plays inside," Joseph said.

Tech jumped out to a quick 8-0

lead over Clemson, and by the nine-minute mark in the first half they held a 29-18 lead. Tech continued to play well in the first half, using rebounding and good defense to extend their lead to 47-25 by halftime. In the first half the Jackets out-rebounded the Tigers 25-10 while holding their offense to only 39 percent shooting from the field. Higgs and Nnamaka added 16 and 13 points, respectively, before the first half was over.

The second half saw Tech keep up the good defensive play as they out-rebounded the Tigers 22-10. Clemson managed to chip the lead down to 16 with 16 minutes left in the game, but a 23-11 Tech run pushed the score out to Tech's largest lead of 28 points. Tech held on, eventually winning by a margin of 19 points. With the win, Tech moves to 13-7 overall and 2-5 in conference play.

Clemson marks the first game of a three-game home stand for Tech. Yesterday, the Jackets hosted Florida State, but the results weren't available by deadline.

"I'm going to get to work to try to figure out a defensive game plan to stop them. [Florida State is] a unique team, because they play four guards the entire game," Joseph said.

The last game of the homestand is against the undefeated No. 1 North Carolina Tar Heels at Alexander-Memorial Coliseum on Sunday at 7 p.m. "We're excited about this opportunity," Joseph said, about the three-game home series.



By Marcel Williams / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

**Junior guard Stephanie Higgs shoots over Clemson's Amanda Frist. Higgs scored 18 points, second only to Chimona Nnamaka with 22.**

## Seniors succeed in final meet; team prepares for ACCs



By Amanda Thomas / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

**Sophomore Onur Uras competes in the 200 fly in the final meet of the season against Emory. Both the men's and the women's teams won easily. The men won 173-118 and the women won 161-139.**

By William Bretherton  
Staff Writer

The men's and women's swimming and diving teams had their final dual meet of the season against Emory. While Emory, a Division III school, did not put up much competition, it gave the seniors a good way to go out, and allowed Tech to prepare for the ACC championships.

The men defeated Emory 173-118, and the women won 161-139.

"We had six guys competing for two spots on the traveling squad. The rest of the guys are probably going to swim exhibition. Everyone swam very fast, and that to me is what really matters going into the ACC championships," Head Coach Stuart Wilson said.

The Jackets won 25 out of 32 total

events at the dual meet. There were many notable performances on both the men's and women's teams.

On the women's side, freshman Caroline Jones won the 200-meter freestyle race with a time of 1:53.29, and sophomore Elizabeth Stowe won the women's 500 and 1000-meter freestyle races with times of 5:01.60 and 10:13.37. However, the most notable performance of them all

came from senior Laurissa Prystaj who won the one-meter springboard with an NCAA zone qualifying score of 289.05.

"I got the mark, and I was very excited about that. Now I can go to the NCAA zone meet. This meet was really just like any other meet to me though," Prystaj said.

On the men's side, junior Ryan Bishop was victorious in the 100-meter breaststroke with a time of 0:58.25. Freshman Andy Miller won the 200-meter breaststroke by recording a new personal record time of 2:09.18. Sophomore Evan Stowers won the three-meter springboard event with an NCAA zone qualifying score of 359.93. Senior Sam Morgan won the 1650-meter freestyle race with a time of 9:30.31.

"I was really happy with what the divers did all year long. The diving competition was more of a relaxed atmosphere, which allowed the divers to let it all out and not be worried. Michael Bennett became our sixth and final NCAA zone qualifier. So all of our divers qualified for the NCAA zone meet. I did not expect

that to happen, but I think that it is great that it did," diving coach John Ames said.

The women have two weeks until the ACC championships, while the men have three weeks to prepare. The meet will be held at the University of Maryland.

"We want to qualify as many swimmers as we can for the NCAAs. Last year, we finished third at the ACC championships, which no one expected us to do. Hopefully, we can duplicate that performance this year," Wilson said.

"This is the first class of seniors to graduate under my belt. Hopefully, this class has set the standard for the classes that follow," Wilson said.

After the ACC championships neither team will have to travel very far for NCAA championship competition. Those Jackets with good enough times will compete in the NCAA zone meet March 10-12 in Athens, Ga. The women's NCAA championships will be hosted in Athens, and the men's NCAA championships will be hosted here on campus March 23-25.

**"This is the first class of seniors to graduate under my belt. Hopefully, their class has set the standard for the classes that follow."**

**Stuart Wilson**  
Swimming Head Coach