

# Cross country women take first, men fourth at season opening Georgia State Invitational

By Matt Gray  
*Has grey matter?*

On Saturday, Georgia Tech sent both the men’s and women’s cross country teams to the Georgia State Invitational, hoping to continue the strong showings from the first two meets of the year. The women’s team did exceedingly well, finishing 4 of the top 15 runners and taking first for the tournament, while the men took home a respectable fourth place.

For the women, they came into the meet looking to improve upon the two third place finishes they had earned in the first two meets of the year. Freshman Christine Noelke was the top finisher for Tech, coming in sixth with a time of 19:35 for the 5K, followed closely by Eboni Crosby, who pulled in eighth running a 19:42.

Tech finished with 28 points, narrowly defeating host Georgia State’s team total of 36.

Tech’s other representatives

in the top 15 were Elizabeth Bulat, who finished at 11 in 19:59, and Ashley Espy, who earned twelfth running 20:07. Completing the team were Neta Ezer

“The women’s team did exceedingly well, finishing 4 of the top 15 runners and taking first for the tournament, while the men took home a respectable fourth place.”

earning 21 with a time of 20:47, and Elizabeth Greene at 22:56.

Meanwhile, the men’s team hoped to continue the success of the previous two meets, having won their first meet of the

year and following it up with a solid third place finish. While they did well enough with 91 points and fourth place, host team Georgia State won for the day, finishing with 30 points. Obviously, points are not highest-score-wins, rather the team with the lowest total of all of their placings claims victory over the higher scores.

Junior Matt O’Brien led the Jackets coming in at number 19 with a time of 27:55 on the 10K, and was followed by rookie Daniel Moss, who earned 32nd by running 28:37. Also in the top 50 were Jared McGehee in 48th with a 29:22, and Billy Simpson in 50th at 29:25. Rounding out the remaining Yellow Jackets in the field were Ashton Manley, who came in at 70th with a time of 30:26, and Jason Grier, who finished 79th at 30:39.

The next meet is on the same course for the Georgia Intercollegiate, Saturday, October 7 to gear up for the ACC championship held at the end of October.

## Tennis

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Mysti Morris. The team is already doing well as Koon won the Flight C Championship in the Georgia Tech Invitational last weekend over teammate Ozolins.

Roberson won the Flight B crown. Wong and Roberson won the Flight C championship together also. Unfortunately, Wong lost in the semifinals of the individual tourney to the number one seed. Still, it was a nice showing.

The men’s team is headed by Coach Kevin Thorn who is in his third year at Tech. He earned ACC Coach of the Year honors his rookie season and has made a lot of steps towards taking the team back to where it was when he was a player. Thorne played at the same time as Shelton where both teamed up to lead Tech to ranking of number twelve nationally.

Only recently has Tech begun to make strides back towards that level again. He had this to say. “Right now we are trying to get the freshman ready. We could have sent them to the National Clay Court Championships but why do it. That is the only tourney we play all year on clay. The rest are on hardcourt. Fall is nothing but preparation for the spring in my eyes. We have done a ton of conditioning pushing the players to a level they have never seen, getting them out of their comfort zone. As a player, you need

that. Only recently have they gotten to a point where they can come to practice without being sore from weights as we really broke their bodies down, and they are just beginning to build back up. We also have stressed footwork, keeping the footwork consistent throughout a three hour match. That takes conditioning. If your footwork gets bad i.e. take three small steps towards hitting a ball instead of one or two big strides then you have to compensate with your arms and that leads to bad shots.”

It sounds like Thorn could step right in now and win a few matches. Instead, he will have players like Sergio Aguirre and Romain Coirault help lead him into the first tourney of the year at the Clemson Fall Classic held September 29. Coirault finished 10-9 last year while Aguirre checked in at 7-14. Roger Anderson figures to improve upon his 15-5 dual match play which garnered him ACC Rookie of the Year honors. Anderson, of South Africa, was 24-8 overall. Rounding out the squad will be Fabio Campos, Jason Jeong, and David Wright.

Check out Tech’s men’s squad at the Bill Moore Tennis Center October 13-16 at in the Georgia Tech Fall Invitational. This is high level tennis for zero dollars. The women’s team next plays at home October 20-22 in the Yellow Jacket Invitational. Admission is free, with the student ID.

# Men’s and women’s tennis teams enter new era with fresh leadership

By David Williams  
*Articles made from thin air*

The beginning of fall usually signifies Saturday afternoons of great college football especially here at the Flats where the likes of Joe Hamilton, Shawn Jones, and Donnie Davis have graced Techwood Drive. But it also means the start of tennis season which will again this year

be headed by men’s coach Kevin Thorn and women’s coach Brian Shelton. Judging by the work put in over the summer and in the first weeks of school, there is no doubt the players will be standing tall when spring rolls around.

First, the women’s team headed by Shelton who is in his second year at the reins. He shook things up immedi-

ately by leading Tech to the second round of the NCAA tourney upsetting number 25 Washington before falling to number nine UCLA. Shelton himself was a standout player while here at Tech earning All-ACC honors all four years. He also had several victories on the ATP tour including ones over Andre Agassi and Todd Martin.

Shelton had this to say about guiding the team. “I am stressing to the players to keep their thoughts on the game for the whole match. That is not always easy to do. I am really trying to get them to develop their game and develop a style of their own. Once they get that style set, I am stressing to them to play within that game and don’t try to go away from it. That means emphasizing their strengths and eliminating any weaknesses.”

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**Brian Shelton**  
Women’s Tennis Head Coach

Having their coach “define” a game and style they have been successful with all their life requires the players trusting the Coach. But that is what happens at the Division I level where stuff a player may have gotten away with against less competition gets exposed quickly in something such as an ACC match.

Shelton also had this to say in the realm of constructive criticism for the team, “Everybody out there has something to work on, else they would be out on tour.” When asked if these players are not on tour yet by age 20, can they really make the tour, Shelton had this to say, “I think it is a myth that you have to turn pro by 14 or 15. College tennis can be a steppingstone to the pro ranks. It all depends on do you have the motivation to take your game to that other level.”

Shelton definitely brings experience from his own days at GT. “I had one of the best times of my life here at Tech. I push the tennis, the players get the academics on their own, and then I try to create an environment where the player can grow as a tennis player and as a person.”

The players themselves have excellent ability and are led by senior Bobbi Guthrie.

The 5-7 Raleigh, NC native racked up a 12-8 singles record last year. Also bringing the fire will be sophomore Jaime Wong. Wong had an excellent freshman year finishing 17-3. Laura Ozolins finished 15-5. Other players include Mason Miller, Sabrino Pardo, Charlotte Pernet, Lea Miller, Kristen Robertson, and

*See Tennis, page 32*



By Sabrina Pardo / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Sophomore Jamie Wong will be a young leader for the team, looking to improve on her 17-3 record of last season.



By Sabrina Pardo / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Consistent play across the board in the singles matches should continue to be a strength for the women’s tennis team.

NC State

from page 40

was nullified by a block in the back penalty and later led to a missed field goal by NC State.

The Yellow Jackets were upbeat going into the locker room at half-time leading 13-0. The defense was dominating the Wolfpack. In fact, the last time the Jackets had shut-out an opponent at halftime was in 1998 against New Mexico State. The last time the Jackets had shut-out an ACC opponent at halftime was in 1996 versus Duke and the last time the Jackets had shutout an ACC opponent on the road at half-time was in 1993 against Duke at Wallace-Wade. The only thing that was negative regarding the defense was that Jeremy Muyres, Georgia Tech's free safety, sprained his knee and would be questionable for the remainder of the game.

Everything was going right for the Jackets until the second half started. The Jackets inexplicably

started making one mistake after another after a first half of almost mistake-free football. The Jackets got off on the wrong foot early as Will Glover fumbled away Georgia Tech's first possession in the second half.

The Jackets received the ball immediately back however as cornerback Jonathan Cox intercepted a tipped pass on the GT one-yard line. The Yellow Jackets proceeded to give it right back to the Wolfpack as Gregory fumbled the ball where it was picked up in the end zone by NC State for their opening score. This fumble was costly as not only did the Wolfpack get back within striking distance of the Jackets but it also got the Wolfpack faithful back on their feet and screaming for more.

The Jackets tried to counter NC State's score by once again methodically marching down the field into enemy territory. However, Manger's leg wasn't as accurate this particular time as he missed a 29-yard field

goal that would have upped the Jacket lead to more than a touchdown. The Wolfpack took advantage of their good fortune when Philip Rivers avoided a sack and threw a short pass to Koren Robinson who took it all the way behind a big wall of blockers. NC State missed the extra point so the game was now tied at 13 all. Georgia Tech once again drove down the field and countered with a Manger 39-yard field goal to end the quarter with the Yellow Jackets in the lead 16-13.

NC State took their first lead early in the fourth quarter as they drove down the field on a tiring Georgia Tech defense and scored on a six-yard fade route to Koren Robinson. The Georgia Tech offense stumbled as Godsey threw his first interception of the year. To his credit, Godsey picked himself up and made a potential touchdown saving tackle that would have probably put the game out of reach for the Jackets. NC State once again took advantage of a Jacket turnover

and capitalized with a 39-yard field goal that ricocheted off the left upright and extended the Wolfpack lead to seven with the score standing at 23-16.

The Yellow Jackets had one last shot at tying the game and they did a wonderful job in accomplishing just that. Kelly Campbell started the drive off right with a kickoff return from the goal line to mid-field. George Godsey showed the true poise of a champion by hanging in there under extreme pressure of an unrelenting NC State pass rush and led the team down to the promised land with a sure and steady grip of the two-minute offense. On fourth and goal with the game riding on the line, Godsey found Kerry Watkins in the back corner of the end zone for the tying score. NC State tried to make a last ditch effort to win the game but Georgia Tech's defense rose up to the challenge and laid Rivers on his back for two of the Yellow Jackets seven sacks during the game.

In overtime, the Jackets won the coin toss and chose to play defense first as all teams usually do in order to see how many points they will have to score when they are on offense. Unfortunately, it didn't take very long for the Wolfpack to score as Rivers connected with Koren Robinson once again for a touchdown on a fly route to take the lead by seven.

The Jackets knew they had to score a TD but were stymied on their first three plays. This included a costly intentional grounding penalty, which forced the Jackets into a critical fourth and long first down conversion attempt. As the fourth down play developed, it looked like Godsey was going to be crushed like a tin can but he stayed in the pocket stoically and lofted a catchable pass to the breaking Watkins who had beaten his man. Unfortunately for Watkins and the Jackets, that pass found grass instead of his usually sure hands, which effectively ended the game.

MEETINGS: 7:00PM TUESDAYS

PLACE: STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING, ROOM 137

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Football Forecast	WEEK SIX										
	Kischuk (10-5) 49-15	Freyman (10-5) 49-15	Shaw (10-5) 48-16	Baucom (12-3) 44-20	Graybeal (10-5) 44-20	Hinkel (12-3) 44-20	Dykes (8-7) 43-21	Guest (Nickel) (10-5) 43-21	Uhlig (10-5) 42-22	Flagg (8-7) 41-23	Cutri-Kohart (9-6) 40-24
<i>Tech at UNC</i>	TECH	TECH	TECH	TECH	TECH	TECH	TECH	TECH	TECH	TECH	TECH
<i>Clemson at Duke</i>	CLEM	CLEM	CLEM	CLEM	CLEM	CLEM	CLEM	CLEM	CLEM	CLEM	CLEM
<i>Florida State at Maryland</i>	F\$U	F\$U	F\$U	F\$U	F\$U	F\$U	F\$U	F\$U	F\$U	MARY	F\$U
<i>Virginia at Wake Forest</i>	UVA	UVA	UVA	UVA	UVA	UVA	UVA	UVA	UVA	WAKE	UVA
<i>Wisconsin at Michigan</i>	MICH	MICH	MICH	MICH	WISC	MICH	MICH	MICH	MICH	WISC	MICH
<i>Washington at Oregon</i>	ORE	WASH	WASH	WASH	WASH	WASH	ORE	ORE	WASH	ORE	ORE
<i>Purdue at Penn State</i>	PURD	PURD	PURD	PURD	PURD	PSU	PURD	PSU	PURD	PSU	PURD
<i>Kansas State at Colorado</i>	KSU	KSU	KSU	KSU	KSU	COL	COL	KSU	KSU	COL	KSU
<i>Illinois at Minnesota.</i>	ILL	ILL	ILL	ILL	ILL	MINN	ILL	MINN	ILL	MINN	MINN
<i>Brigham Young at Syracuse</i>	SYR	BYU	SYR	SYR	BYU	SYR	SYR	SYR	SYR	SYR	SYR
<i>Western Carolina at Furman</i>	FURM	FURM	FURM	FURM	FURM	WCU	FURM	FURM	FURM	WCU	WCU
<i>Howard at Florida A&amp;M</i>	FAMU	FAMU	FAMU	FAMU	FAMU	FAMU	FAMU	FAMU	FAMU	FAMU	FAMU
<i>Hampton at Delaware St.</i>	HAMP	HAMP	HAMP	DSU	DSU	DSU	DSU	DSU	DSU	HAMP	HAMP
<i>Coast Guard at Norwich</i>	NOR	NOR	CG	CG	CG	NOR	CG	NOR	CG	CG	CG
<i>Benedict at Fort Valley State</i>	FVSU	BEN	FVSU	FVSU	FVSU	BEN	FVSU	FVSU	FVSU	FVSU	BEN

Six point gets a head start this week. I'm writing early so Jody can't whine any more about where he belongs in the standings. Once again, I have decided that I should be ahead of Christina. No big reason. Just because I feel like it and it's my section, and I'll laugh at people if I want to. After all, if Jody's picks are so great, why is he still in third? Perhaps if he spent more time making good picks and less time thinking of big words to put in my space, he'd be ahead of things. As much as I hate having to write so much into this box, it's a lot easier than writing actual content to fill this space. After all, stories have to make sense, while whatever I write in here can just be the spewings of my own brain. If you want to write for Sports, send me an e-mail at sports@technique.gatech.edu Hey, it's probably better to read your stories than to read my ramblings. Also, if you have story ideas, I don't, so I need your help. Feel free to tell me whatever you think should be in the sports section, and I might tell you to shut your hole. I also might tell you it's a good idea. I guess that's just a risk you'll have to take. Plus, it might be good for my ego. So I accepted a job yesterday. No chicken. Don't get me wrong, Chick-fil-A's the bomb, and if you think you'd like to work at their HQ, let me know, and maybe I can give you a referral (if I haven't already told you to shove off for sending me a dumb story idea). I'm going to work with wireless devices... you know, like when the cat chews on the power cord and turns into charcoal? Oh, I mean like cell phones and palm pilots and stuff like that... my bad. Does anyone else think Saturday Night Live sucks these days? Isn't

Cheri Oteri actually a demon sent to torture all of us? Maybe the same can be said for Dennis Miller. The man is straight up annoying. I mean, who wants to need an HTS degree just to understand the commentary on Monday Night Football. Who wants an HTS degree at all? Who wants to be a millionaire? Me. I qualified. That thing the had downtown... I was one of the first 125 in the 2 pm mob, and answered some questions right, so if I get a phone call on October 20 saying I'm going to New York, I might just have to fill the six-point box with me flipping out. Put the following Olympic "sports" in the order of how mundane they are, starting with the least mundane: gymnastics, synchronized diving, trampoline, and basketball. It's a shame we can't even see the basketball. I'd rather see the "Dream Team LXVII" whipping the entire planet than a bunch of twelve year old girls crying because their dance routine didn't work out. The old Olympic games used to be about athletic ability. Now it's all about beauty, form, and who has the saddest sob story that can be packaged into a 30-second preview that's played right before they compete. Resume rant here. I just wrote the sports opinion. It's not incredible, and I know it, but I'll get over it. The Olympics are still on TV. I wish they'd go away. I think they spend more time telling us about these people's lives than they actually spend showing the events. It's like one giant e-mail forward after another—everyone has a wonderful and inspirational story. I just wish there was some way to delete them.

# Search for a conference win continues against Tarheels

By Gary Bridges  
Number 1 Stunna

Georgia Tech Football needs to get back on track. Two consecutive come-from-behind ACC losses have stuck the team at the bottom of the conference with the likes of winless Wake Forest, Maryland, and Duke.

The Jackets (2-2) need to make the most of this Saturday's game against North Carolina (3-1) to climb out of the ACC basement and back into the real world. Consistent play for four quarters and minimum turnovers should be enough for Tech to come out on top.

But, as two out of the last three games have shown, that is not always an easy task. The Jackets blew a promising 13-0 halftime lead last Thursday to fall against North Carolina State 30-23 in an overtime heart-breaker.

Thanks to ESPN, Tech showed the country how the second half of a football game should not be played; fumbles, interceptions, and incomplete passes, oh my!

The Yellow Jackets need to play like they did in their 40-13 spanking of Navy two weeks ago if they are to succeed against the Tar Heels. George Godsey threw for a career high three touchdowns and the defense clicked, recovering two fumbles and severely sinking the

Midshipmen's offense.

The Tar Heels are coming off a close, come from behind 20-15 win against Marshall in which they showed off their well-balanced offensive attack. Still, such a narrow victory over such a minor opponent speaks to their vulnerability. This Saturday's game (at 3.30 at Chapel

"The Yellow Jackets need to play like they did in their 40-13 spanking of Navy two weeks ago if they are to succeed against the Tar Heels."

Hill, by the way) will be well within Tech's reach, but it will definitely not be a pushover.

Now for the match-ups: Georgia Tech and North Carolina both have very strong rush defenses. Tech is ranked number 14 in the nation in run defense, allowing an average of only 78 rush yards per game. However, UNC ranks number 11 in the same category, averaging a

slightly better 75.3 rush yards per game.

North Carolina's defense will be on the lookout for Tech Tailback Joe Burns, who rushed for an even century against NC State.

The Jackets defense will need to shutdown quarterback Ronald Curry, who leads the Heels' well-rounded offensive attack. He has passed for 862 yards this season, six touchdowns, and three interceptions. Curry will undoubtedly be out for revenge, as his Achilles injury last year against Tech sidelined him for the season.

Curry is frequently mentioned among the ranks of the top play-callers in the conference, and so this meeting will give the defense a fine opportunity to establish themselves as they did to N.C. State's Philip Rivers in the first half last week.

On the other end of the spectrum, Godsey has passed for 770 yards, eight touchdowns and only one interception this season. He will need to play well if Tech is to triumph.

The Yellow Jackets should beat the North Carolina Tar Heels this Saturday, provided they play for all four quarters, keep focused, and execute at the level they are capable of. If they do, the Tech should have its first ACC win by Saturday night.



By Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

**Will Glover has shared punt return duties with Marvious Hester. In his seven attempts this season, Glover has averaged 9.1 yards per return.**

Shoot stuff.

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and take pictures for any  
of the ~~four~~ five magnificent  
student publications:  
Blueprint , ~~erato~~ , North Avenue Review ,  
TECHNIQUE and T-Book )



# Newcomer Mabry leads volleyball to first conference win

By Derek Haynes  
*Sometimes seems omnipresent*

The women's volleyball team took a quick sweep up Tobacco Road last weekend to begin their Atlantic Coast Conference schedule against the University of North Carolina Tarheels and the North Carolina State Wolfpack with a pair of challenging road games.

Temple Transfer Ida Mabry recorded a season-high 22 kills as the Tech volleyball team (10-4, 1-1) won four close games against NC State (5-8, 0-2) to clinch their first conference victory. After losing the opener in Chapel Hill against North Carolina, Tech came back strong defeating NC State 14-16, 16-14, 15-11, 15-12. Senior Teryl Townsend contributed 14 digs and junior Ky Bell, who pounded a career-high 27 kills in the loss at UNC, added 20 kills. Freshman Kele Eveland, who has won all-tournament honors twice already in her young career, contributed 70 assists.

Tech's performance against NC State was almost a complete reversal of their opening night fortunes against UNC. After jumping to a 9-2 lead in game one against UNC and then going on to barely win the game and lose the match, Tech was steamrolled by NC State to an 8-1 deficit before the Wolfpacks screeched out a close 16-14 victory in the game and lost the match. The first game saw NC State take advantage of the same passing problems that plagued Tech in their loss to UNC, but from there Tech was in control of the match.

"Freshman Kele Eveland, who has won all-tournament honors twice already in her young career, contributed 70 assists."

In game two, the Jackets rallied back from a 14-12 deficit, thanks to a kill and a block from Townsend and a block from freshman Amanda Hess. An ace from Mabry gave Tech the late lead, and a hitting error by NC State gave Tech the 16-14 victory.

Tech was in complete control of the third game, jumping out of the gate to a 13-4 lead on two kills from Mabry, a kill from Hess, a block from Mabry and Townsend, and four Wolfpack errors. NC State was able to close the gap to 14-11, but Townsend closed out the game with a kill from junior Maja Pachale.

Tech was able to overcome seven straight points from NC State in the fourth game to secure their first ACC victory. After trailing 9-6, stuff blocks from the Yellow Jacket's Townsend and freshman Kele Eveland and a kill from Pachale tied the score at 9. After the two teams battled back and forth to retie the game at 12, Tech won the final three points to take the game and the match, 15-12.

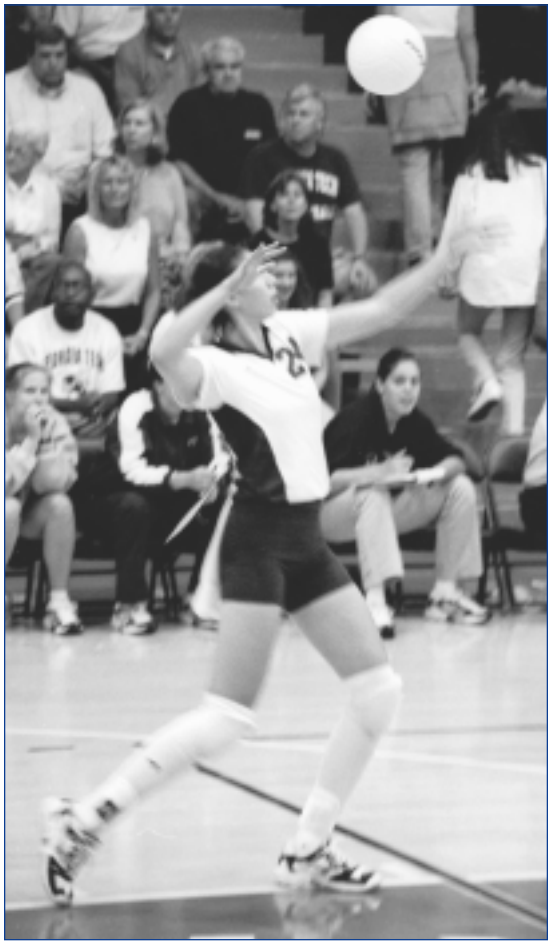
Against UNC, the Jackets were one game away from a victory before UNC won three straight to send Tech to a loss in their first conference game. After winning the first game 15-13 and dominating in the second to win 15-9, UNC took advantage of four unforced errors to stake an 11-7 lead in the third game before the Tar Heels offense clicked and ran-off three kills to take a 14-9 lead. An error by Mabry gave UNC the third game.

Carolina took game four with commanding fashion, 15-3. After



By Marques McMillan / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

**Freshman setter Kele Eveland has been unmatched in her contributions as a newcomer to the team this year.**



By Marques McMillan / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

**Junior Ky Bell leads the team offense, having notched a team-leading 194 kills and a 4.13 per game avg.**

jumping to a 6-3 lead, the Heels ran off nine straight points on Tech errors to give Tech their worst game of the conference season.

Carolina used game four as a spring board into the final game, winning 15-10 as the Heels' blockers controlled the net both offensively and defensively.

The weekend's events bring the team's record to 10-4 overall, with a conference record of 1-1 thus far. The remainder of the regular season is entirely comprised of ACC

matches, with a home match with each member team between now and the end of the season, as well as six more away matches before the focus will turn to the post-season ACC Championships, which will be held in mid-November in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Georgia Tech faces Virginia Friday at 7 p.m. in their first ACC Home game in O'Keefe Gymnasium. Virginia, coming off a victory against Florida State, stands at 2-1 in the ACC thanks primarily to ACC

Player of Year Candidate Deanna Zwarich.

If the fans turn out in mass as they have been known to do on occasion, the twelfth man should factor in and help the ladies right the ship and propel their conference record to 3-1.

Consistency should play a key role, as errors and missed opportunities have cost the team. The building blocks for greatness are present, they just need to be lined up, and success should proliferate.



## SPORTS

Technique • Friday, September 29, 2000

## Volleyball

Team claims first ACC victory after weekend away trip  
Page 39

## Tennis

Men's and Women's teams look strong into 2000-01 season  
Page 33

# Wolfpack strikes first to claim the victory in Thursday ESPN brawl

By Keith Kaiser  
Reporting live from Raleigh

A potential chance of victory slipped right through the fingers of the Yellow Jackets both figuratively and literally last Thursday night as Georgia Tech visited NC State during a primetime ESPN battle between ACC foes. Down 30-23 in overtime and facing fourth and long, Georgia Tech quarterback George Godsey lofted a pass under severe duress towards his target Kerry Watkins. Unfortunately for the Jackets, Watkins agonizingly watched the throw slip through his outstretched hands and onto the field below. A completion would have meant a sure first down for the Jackets and possibly a tying touchdown but it was not meant to be for the Jackets this night.

To blame Watkins for the loss would be premature, however, as the Jackets accumulated too many mistakes throughout the night that eventually ended their chance at victory. The game started on a high note for the Jackets as they pressured NC State's star freshman QB, Philip Rivers, to a three-and-out initial possession. The Jackets took advantage of the good field position their defense had created for them by driving down the field and taking the lead on Joe Burns' 31-yard TD romp through the middle of the Wolfpack defense. Burns' 31-yard scamper was his longest run of the year and came at a good time, as the nearly 50,000 Wolfpack fans at Carter-Finley were hushed into an early silence.

The Georgia Tech defense kept turning up the heat on NC State throughout the first half forcing three punts and picking off a Rivers' pass. Georgia Tech's defense line was getting a good push and the linebackers were wreaking havoc on the Wolfpack's offensive game plan. Ricardo Wimbush and Daryl Smith in particular were having a field day tracking down and punishing NC State's offense. Wimbush had two sacks in the first half while Smith forced Rivers into two hurries and also had a tackle for a loss during the same time span. Greg Gathers also joined in the festivities by sacking Rivers for an eight-yard loss and also deflected a pass. One key play towards the end of the first half was made by none other than Merrix Watson, who intercepted a lame duck throw by Rivers. This took away a golden NC State scoring opportunity.

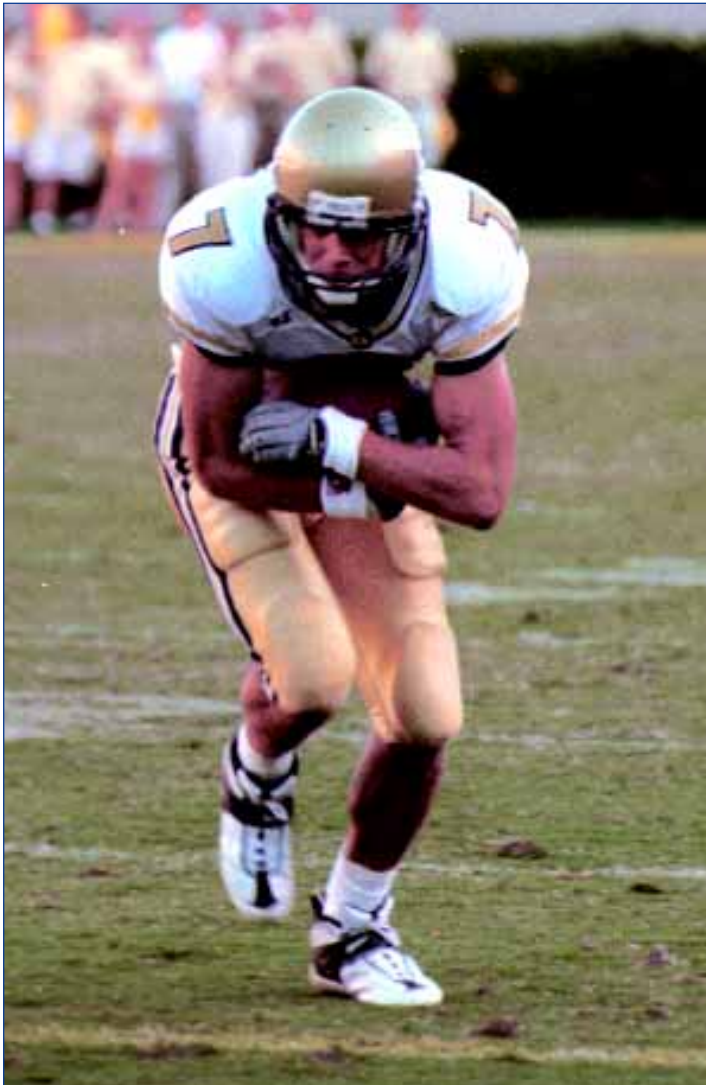
While the defense was holding down the fort, the Yellow Jackets offense was slowly but steadily moving down the field utilizing a combination of the power running game and the short passing game. Sean Gregory went over the 1,000-yard mark for his career and helped the Yellow Jackets get into position to try two long field goals. Luke Manget was steady as a rock nailing field goals from 50, his longest as a Yellow Jacket, and 43 yards respectively.

Even when the Georgia Tech offense stalled out, the special teams took it upon themselves to pick up the slack and they did a wonderful job doing so. Dan Dyke, Georgia Tech's punter, was bombing rain-makers all night long and booted punts of 50, 42, and 57 yards for a remarkable 49.7 average. The coverage teams also did a great job for the most part by minimizing kickoff and punt returns by the Wolfpack. The only negative was Koren Robinson's kickoff return for a TD that



By Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Quarterback George Godsey has played for the all of the past two games, diverging from the two-pronged approach of earlier games.



By Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Split End Jon Muyres tucks the ball away and lowers his head into an oncoming hit. Muyres has averaged 11.4 yards per catch this year.

## Sports Commentary

## Games, sports, and dancing, the wonder of modern "sport"

By Rob Kischuk  
Sports Editor

It's all a question of sport. What is a sport, and what isn't a sport? This has been a question plaguing my mind with the recent proliferation coverage of these Olympic "games".

I wish I could enforce the rule that if it's boring, it's not a sport. By that criterion, however, televised baseball wouldn't be considered a sport. Yes, it's a tad slow to watch a competition where succeeding 33% of the time at bat is considered good. If only the curve would be so generous in those computer science classes!

Still, I must suggest that not every single event that claims to be a sport actually is one. Let's start easy (and I'm going to die for this one): NASCAR. This is not a sport. It is rednecks making left turns (and sometimes right turns, too).

A year or so ago, Ford released the new version of their "Taurus" onto the NASCAR circuit. First of all, it's not a Taurus. I own a 1997 Ford Taurus, and it looks only slightly like the racing version on the exterior, and I guarantee the interior has nothing in common. In any case, shortly after this vehicle was entered into races, drivers of other makes of cars were up in arms, complaining that Ford drivers had an unfair advantage.

This suggests to me that auto racing is not a sport, rather it is an engineering competition. When was the last time you heard basketball teams whining about the other team winning because they had better shoes? Furthermore, after seeing film of the drivers, I have great difficulty calling them "athletes".

Being an athlete implies having athletic ability, and in my book, being able to sit in a car and drive for hours is known as a road trip, not a sport. Why not just throw in a Waffle House waffle eating contest and a test-cramming competition and call it the college triathlon?

On top of all of that, there is this immense dependence on the pit crew. When a driver changes pit crews, many times their performance suffers for months. It's a great engineering competition, and I'm glad we have GT Motorsports to compete on our behalf, but if anyone tries to make racing an NCAA sanctioned sport, I may have to cry.

What, you may ask, is my ever-so-subjective and absolutely irrelevant to your opinion definition of a sport? I would contend that it is a competition involving two opposing sides facing each other in a head-to-head

fashion. Scoring of some sort is involved. Basic physical components such as running should be involved, but should not be the focus of the competition—significant other skills should be the focus of the event, and the effort to compete should be made mostly by the athlete. Strategy is a plus. Team competitions have a definite advantage. Everything else, no disrespect intended, is a game.

This rules out running. Running is a fine skill, and a building block for most every sport, but not a standalone sport. Ultimate frisbee, as much as you former cross-country runners may love it, is not a sport. It is running with a frisbee. The throw-catch part of the game is not enough to overpower the fact that it is mostly running.

Horse racing is not a sport unless you are a horse, and car racing is not a sport unless you are a car.

Most of the Olympics are not sports. They can loosely be classified into racing, dancing, parlor games, and actual sports.

Don't get me wrong, physical prowess is respectable and impressive, but determining who can run or swim the fastest, or lift the heaviest weights doesn't really capture the imagination. Aiming guns and arrows at targets is a redneck game. When I go to a pub and play darts, it's not a sport.

Now for my favorite part, the heart of the drama—the dance competitions. Personally, I would rather see the Dream Team school the world in basketball than watch 14 year olds dance around on mats and bars while a panel of anal-retentive has-beens sits on a bench and writes down numbers to figure out who wins.

These "dance" categories such as gymnastics, diving, and synchronized swimming are tremendous shows of discipline, dedication, and control over their muscles, but it ends there. I can see how long I can stand on my head and demonstrate similar abilities.

The numbers shouldn't be determined by a timer, by a scorecard, by whether or not a horse knocks down a bar for a .00015 point deduction. Competitors should face each other and let the head-to-head results determine the winner.

What is a sport? Football, soccer, tennis, baseball, hockey, lacrosse, and water polo are all decent examples. Don't get me wrong, I have respect for all of these things in their own right, but I find it very hard to believe that driving is a sport, else we are all athletes. Here come the flaming arrows.