

Beyond the White and Gold Bad seats? Too damn bad

By Kimberly Rieck
Sports Editor

Recently the *Atlanta-Journal Constitution* published two articles on Georgia and other Southeastern Conference schools' uproar over their ticket allotments at rival schools. The schools are crying foul over what they claim to be unfair seating practices.

My first instinct when I read the June 13 article on Georgia fans being miffed about being given "nose-bleed seats" at Tech was to laugh. At last year's Georgia game, I sat with most of the Tech fans in the very upper deck of Sanford Stadium. Did I whine or call the AJC? No because I understand Georgia doesn't want their team seeing anything but red and black while they're on the field. Sure all but 785 of Georgia's 8,500 tickets are not in the upper deck, but the upper deck of our newly expanded stadium is a helluva lot closer than most visitor's tickets at Sanford Stadium. So where was Tech's pity party in the AJC last year?

Poor Scott McLaren. He's made out to be a villain in the article when really he's just doing his job. We desperately need a home field advantage which we haven't had at many of our big games. Florida State's band overpowered our own at last year's football game and the Georgia fans were louder than Tech's fans at the 2001 matchup. Our sta-

dium simply wasn't big enough to shift visiting teams' fans into anything considered nosebleed seats.

Although I realize there are other factors to look at as well. Freddy Jones, Georgia's ticket director, mentioned that he was disappointed for the elderly fans who are going to have to climb up stairs. Jones should make a deal with McClaren to hold aside seats in both stadiums for the elderly fans who may not be able to climb up the stairs. Since nothing can be done this year about the arrangement, Jones should give the 339 seats in the lower deck not reserved for the Red Coats Marching band to all of the Bulldog Nation's elderly fans and not the ticket holders who give the most money to the school.

In a separate article in the AJC from the Associated Press on July 1, ticket arrangement practices at all the SEC schools were detailed. Basically every team in the SEC is now sitting in the upper decks, further up than ever before.

I'm a big fan of the golden rule but I understand though that in the high stakes world of college football, the golden rule and southern hospitality doesn't always apply. If you give the visiting teams too much power on your own turf, it can become chaos and the visitors' cheers can overpower the home crowd. With millions of dollars and reputations on the line, let's give our teams every advantage possible.

Earleywine named interim coach

By Kimberly Rieck
Sports Editor

Ehren Earleywine, an assistant coach on the Georgia Tech softball team for the past two seasons, has been named the interim head softball coach. Kate Madden resigned after five years as head coach to pursue other interests. Madden had compiled a record of 161-143 in five seasons and was the ACC coach of the year in 2002. She was also the program's first full-time assistant coach before she became head coach.

During the past two years as Tech's top assistant, Earleywine helped lead Georgia Tech to its two most successful seasons ever. The past two seasons have seen the Jackets make its two first NCAA Tournament appearances and capture the school's first ACC title in softball in 2002. The team won 90 games the last two years, including 52 wins in 2002, a school record. In 2002, the team came within one game of reaching the Women's College World Series.

As an assistant coach, he worked with the Jackets' hitters and infielders and coached first base. After batting .213 as a team before his arrival, the team average rose to .263 in his first year. Individually, shortstop Tara Knudsen tied the ACC season record with 16 home runs. Knudsen led the quad with a .374 average and the ACC in home runs in the spring with 13. Additionally, catcher Lindsay Wood set a conference mark with 27 doubles.



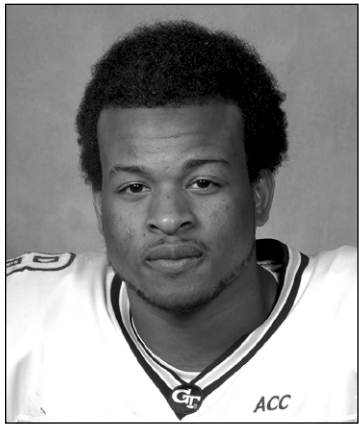
Photo Courtesy of the Georgia Tech Athletic Association

After Head Coach Kate Madden resigned to pursue other projects, Ehren Earleywine has been tapped to lead the Jacket's softball program.

Earleywine's previous coaching experience includes three seasons as head baseball coach at Westminster College, an NCAA Division III program and his alma mater. At Westminster, Earleywine had a 65-44 record. He also spent three years as an assistant coach at Westminster and one year as an assistant at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

Besides coaching, Earleywine has been a standout in major men's fastpitch softball. He was a member of the USA men's fastpitch team in 1998-99 and 2002-03. He earned a gold medal at the 2002 Pan Am Qualifier. Earleywine is also a six-time All-America and was an All-World selection in 1999 by the International Softball Congress.

faces in the crowd



Damarius Bilbo
RS Sophomore
Quarterback

Nicknamed D-Bo, he displayed his big-play ability and strong arm on more than one occasion on the field. At the Wake Forest game, he connected with Kerry Watkins for a 69-yard touchdown pass. This season he's competing for the starting spot.

In high school, Bilbo was the Dick Butkus High School Player of the Year. He was the Mississippi Player of the Year by USA Today and Gatorade after leading his team to the state title. In addition, he was an all-state baseball player who was drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers as a pitcher.



Nina Barlin
Senior
Point Guard

Named one of Atlanta's "50 Most Beautiful People" by *Jezebel Magazine*, Barlin has made her mark at point guard. During her career, she has been sidelined with injuries but despite that, she has had many memorable starts for the Jackets. She has frequently led the team in assists. Barlin even earned All-ACC honors in 2002 even though she had missed 12 games with a knee injury at the end of the year.

A native of Sweden, Barlin is just the second internationally-born women's basketball player for the Jackets. She has been a member of the Swedish National Team and the all-star team at the European World Championships. At Tech, she majors in international affairs.



Nick Thompson
Sophomore
Golf

At this year's NCAA Championship, Nicholas Thompson closed out the season in great fashion by playing the final 36 holes in 2-under-par and finishing in a tie for 12th place. He earned All-America honors for the second straight year for his performance. In addition, he was also named to the Golf Coaches Association of America All-America teams.

In high school, Thompson was a member of the U.S. Izzo Cup team and the East Canon Cup Team. He has reached the semifinals of the AJGA Polo Golf Junior Classic and qualified for the U.S. Amateur at Pebble Beach. Hailing from Coral Springs, Florida, Thompson majors in management at Tech.

Expansion

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ble conference football championship game would use this type of structure.

As for basketball, the ACC does not plan on splitting into divisions anytimesoon. The traditional home-and-away format will be reformed, as not all teams in the conference will face-off twice a year. This means that some match-ups will retain the previous two-game format while others will play just once. ACC teams may also be able to schedule conference opponents in games considered non-conference — another nuance from Big 10 scheduling.

An expansion to 11 teams will also add two play-in games to the conference tournament, upping the number to three. It will be the bottom four (instead of the bottom two) playing it out on Thursday night of the tournament to decide who plays the top-seed on Friday. It is uncertain whether the new alignment will have any impact on the ACC tournament sites, since they have been chosen through the 2011 season.

One of the initial perks and drawing points of expansion was having a conference title game every year in football. But since it resulted in an 11 teams, it will now take a little extra to get that coveted match. The NCAA has a rule that allows a championship game for leagues with 12 members or more. The ACC will look to appeal this rule as soon as possible. And as for now, commissioner Swofford says that the league would be divided in football only if a title match exists. This implies

that either the NCAA must overturn its rule or the ACC must add a 12th team. The \$10 million in profits that would accrue from this match would provide more than half the amount needed to ensure that this 11-team setup will be as profitable as the former 9-team setup.

However, the ACC has no plans at the moment to add another team. "We're not in any rush at this point. We think we have got two great new members and we need a little time to bring them into the fold and get going with our two new mem-

bers before we jump to any other conclusions," said Wayne Clough, Institute President, at the press conference.

On the scheduling front, the new conference intends to model its format on the Big 10, where each team annually plays one rival and seven rotated opponents. This will fit nicely, since Miami and VT already have annual ACC rivals in Florida State and Virginia.

Nonetheless, everyone seems to be excited at the prospect of a new ACC. The leaders of each of the existing and incoming schools expressed their excitement, as did Georgia Tech football coach Chan Gailey.

"We have added two very strong football schools, and when you do that, you make it a stronger football conference... We should do well in recruiting because of it, we should [do] well at the gate because of it, we should do well in the television ratings because of it, and we should have a stronger program overall because of it," said Gailey.

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Sampling Dante's

The *Nique* checks out Atlanta's well-known Dante's Down the Hatch. Check out thoughts on the Buckhead eatery. Page 13.

Earleywine steps in

Kate Madden has left the softball team. Now Ehren Earleywine has been chosen to step in and lead the team. Page 18.



It's Official: Miami and Virginia Tech are in

By John Scaduto
Contributing Writer

The Atlantic Coast Conference grew to 11 teams on Monday, June 30, as the University of Miami followed Virginia Tech in accepting an invitation to leave the Big East. The two programs will athletically join the ACC after paying a \$1 million Big East exit fee and a \$2 million entrance fee, possibly as soon as 2004.

"The ACC is stronger today than yesterday and may well be at its strongest point in its history," said ACC Commissioner John Swofford at the press conference where he along with all the ACC school presidents announced the expansion plan.

The original plan called for the additions of Syracuse and Boston College along with Miami, but this did not produce the seven ACC votes necessary for expansion. Duke and North Carolina developed a general opposition to expansion and the University of Virginia received in-state political pressure to veto any plan snubbing Virginia Tech.

Several alternatives arose, including the addition of VT to the group of Miami, Syracuse, and BC. This

proposal discouraged many throughout the ACC, since it also meant splitting revenues among the 13 teams. Another plan was developed that called for the addition of only Miami, seemingly a compromise after the Big East retaliated with a lawsuit. This was short-lived as an offer was quickly extended to and accepted

"The two programs will athletically join the ACC after paying a \$1 million Big East exit fee and a \$2 million entrance fee..."

by VT — in place of Syracuse and BC.

The initial lawsuit filed by several Big East members cited the negative impact of expansion and accused the ACC of conspiracy. Even when it became clear that expansion would occur, the Big East still remained adamant in curbing the subtractions

from its league. In a counteroffer led by Syracuse and Boston College, the conference tried to persuade Miami to stay by guaranteeing \$45 million over five years, in addition to a travel supplement.

In the end, analysts argue the Hurricanes chose a stable future in the ACC over temporary financial appeasement. But the legal struggle will continue, as Big East members are contending that they have spent millions on their respective football programs based upon presumed loyalty from the two schools.

While the Big East scrambles to stabilize, the ACC will undergo many adjustments in the coming months that will shake the athletic landscape of the entire conference. The most notable change will be in scheduling, where growing from 9 to 11 teams will create a unique situation.

Fortunately, the Big 10 Conference (which has 11 teams) has been running this type of scheduling for several years, as Swofford says the plan will be to use that format as a "jumping off place." The idea of splitting the ACC into two divisions is also on the table, as a proba-

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Image courtesy of the Atlantic Coast Conference

With the addition of Miami and Virginia Tech, the new ACC logo now has eleven teams represented and retains its original shape. The two schools will most likely not play in conference games until the 2004-05 season.

by the numbers 20

Total number of collegians on the USA Baseball National Team. Georgia Tech has the most number of honorees on this year's team. Only four other schools had more than one honoree on the team.

3

Length of Chris Bosh's contract with the Toronto Raptors. Bosh will earn \$2.91 million a year.

5

Length of Paul Hewitt's new contract. Hewitt's contract extends until the 2007-2008 season. The new contract included a \$75,000 raise in base salary for the 2001 ACC Coach of the Year.

4

Total number of Olympic gold medalists Grover Hinsdale has coached in his career. Hinsdale has also coached three World Champions, seven USA Track and Field Champions, four Goodwill Games medalists, 13 NCAA champions, 65 All-Americans, 69 ACC Champions and 114 All-ACC honorees. He was the 2002 ACC Coach of the Year.

Hewitt signs on for 5 more years

By Clark Nelson
Contributing Writer

The Georgia Tech Athletic Department has announced that men's head basketball coach Paul Hewitt has received a new five-year contract, keeping him at Tech through the 2007-2008 season.

Coach Hewitt has coached three seasons in the Thrillerdome while compiling a record of 48-44 (.527). In Hewitt's first season, the Jackets reached the NCAA Tournament and Hewitt was named the ACC Coach of the Year. He was also named District 5 Coach of the Year by the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC). In addition, he was a finalist for the Naismith College Coach of the Year Award by the Atlanta Tipoff Club. Last season Tech reached the quarterfinals of the National Invitation Tournament with no seniors in the playing rotation.

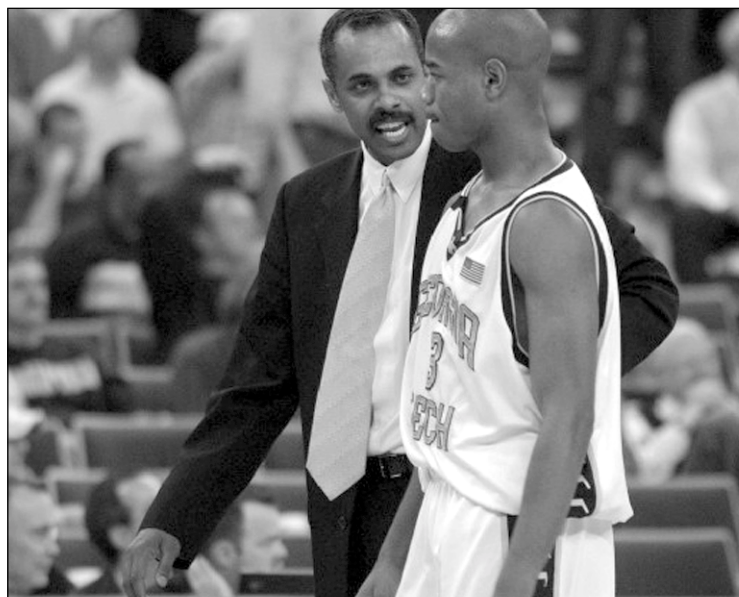
"I look forward to continuing to build the program. We're proud of what we've accomplished so far, but there's so much more to do," said Hewitt.

So far he has had at least one player earn first- or second-team all-ACC honors each year. Alvin Jones was on the ACC first team in 2001, Tony Akins was a second-team all-ACC player in 2002, and freshman Chris Bosh made the second team last season.

In his short time here, he has had two excellent recruiting classes. Bosh,

"Paul Hewitt is the perfect fit for Georgia Tech. He understands what it takes to be successful here..."

Dave Braine
Director of Athletics



By Scott Meuleners / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

At a game last season, Paul Hewitt gives guard Jarret Jack a few words of advice. Hewitt has inked a new contract after three successful seasons on the Flats. Hewitt's new deal will keep him at Tech until at least 2008.

one of his recruits, was recently a top five pick in the NBA draft and the ACC Rookie of the Year in 2003.

Ed Nelson, another Hewitt recruit, was the 2002 ACC Rookie of the Year. Additionally, B.J. Elder and Marvin Lewis have been on the league's All-Freshman team.

While Hewitt's name has been tossed around recently for vacant coaching jobs such as the Illinois spot, Hewitt has made it clear he wants to stay in Atlanta and Tech. "I'm very appreciative for what Dave Braine and

Dr. Clough have done," Hewitt said. "I want to be here for a long time. Where we live is very important to me and my family. Atlanta is an ideal place for us to be at."

The new contract means that Hewitt will make \$225,000 in salary; up from his current contract of \$150,000.

Hewitt's six year record as a head coach is 114-71 (.616). He spent the first three years of his head coaching career at Siena, located in upstate New York, before succeeding Bobby Cremins in 2000 to become the twelfth head basketball coach in Georgia Tech history.

"Paul Hewitt is the perfect fit for Georgia Tech," said Director of Athletics Dave Braine. "He understands what it takes to be successful here, and we are all very excited about the future of the program."

sports shorts

Bosh inks deal with Raptors

First-round draft pick Chris Bosh has signed a three-year contract with the Toronto Raptors. Bosh will make \$2.91 million a year under the terms of the NBA's rookie scale agreement. Bosh left Tech after his freshman year. Last year the 6-10 forward led the Jackets to a quarterfinal appearance in the NIT.

Baseball players selected to USA team

Four Tech players have been selected to the 2003 USA Baseball National Team. Catcher Mike Nick-eas, second baseman Eric Patterson, shortstop Tyler Greene and pitcher/first baseman Micah Owings are among the 20 collegians on the team. The Jackets have the most number of players on the team, while Arizona State, Mississippi and Stanford each had two players make the national team.

Hinsdale named to Ferris State Hall of Fame

Grover Hinsdale, the men's track and field head coach, is among nine athletes and coaches that will be inducted into the Ferris State University Bulldog Athletics Hall of Fame this fall. Hinsdale was a decathlete and assistant coach at Ferris.