

Walk-on from page 28

coaches and Coach O'Connor mostly ran it," he said.

As a walk-on, Davis would like the spotlight, but he knows his role on the team is to be there for the starters and keep them going through the game.

"It would be nice to play more," Davis said. "I got one shot up this season, got a little excited and missed it pretty bad. It would be nice to get

a few more shots in and earn more minutes. But you have to work hard. As a walk-on, your main job is to contribute to practice and stuff like that. Whatever I can earn through my hard work is my goal. Hopefully, a national championship can come with that."

Both Jones and Davis agree the biggest perk on the team is traveling. Davis recalls his first moment in the Dean Dome when Tech went on the road against North Carolina earlier this season with

one word—"blue."

"That's the biggest college arena I have been in. The Carolina blue is all around. We went in early in the morning to shoot around when nobody was there, and boy, that blue is everywhere: The rafters, the seats, everything's blue," Davis said. Davis added that the free gear the players don was also a perk for him.

As a walk-on, Davis looks toward some of his fellow teammates for help on improving his game. Apart from admiring West's hard work ethic,

Davis also admires the pre-game speeches and peer help in practice.

"Definitely for the game, Isma'il [Muhammad] is big on getting the team up giving his pre-game speech and whatnot. And then in practice, Jarrett [Jack], if I make a mistake, he's there to help and explain to me what I am supposed to do," Davis said.

For those that are looking to try-out next year, here is the inside word on what Coach Hewitt looks for in a walk-on, according to Davis.

"Obviously he wants someone with some ability, but more so he looks for a hard worker with a lot of enthusiasm, especially for those few minutes that you play. Your main job is to contribute to practice so when you do get in, he looks for someone who hustles and busts his butt. During games, he looks for someone to keep the bench warm. You [have to] get the bench on their feet clapping and cheering on the team, especially for road games where there aren't many fans," he said.

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Baseball from page 31

you should beat, but they played very well. We didn't play as well as we needed to," Hall said.

"I was very pleased with the way we rebounded from that loss. I thought we rebounded very well, and that was an encouraging sign. Maybe our guys played a little tight. More than anything we made too many errors, and we hit into three double plays, and when you do that you're going to struggle to win," he said

The Jackets rebounded from the loss on Friday to sweep the games at Georgia Southern in the Eagles' new ballpark over the weekend.

The Jackets managed to record only four hits against Georgia State but blasted the Eagles for 29 hits in the two games and scored 23 runs in an offensive explosion.

The Jackets overcame the errors they committed and capitalized on the three that the Eagles made in the victory.

In the opener the Jackets fell be-

hind early, but managed to rally back to win 10-6. The arm of freshman Brad Rulon, who pitched 3.2 innings of relief work, led the Jackets to their first win of the young season.

"I thought we played very well," Hall said. "They are a good team, and it was on the road, and they were opening up a new stadium. We got behind both days, but yet came back and won both games. I was pleased we played a lot of guys and were able to pitch a lot of guys. We'll get better because of that experience. I think, all told, I was pleased with the way we played. That was certainly not where need to be, but to go on the road after suffering a loss was big."

"I think all told I was pleased with the way we played. That was certainly not where we need to be, but to go on the road after suffering a loss was big.

Danny Hall
Baseball head coach

In the second game of the series, Sophomore Blake Wood became the first starter of the year to register a decision for the Jackets.

Wood pitched five innings and gave up three runs on seven hits in the victory.

The saying goes that the third time's the charm, and for the third consecutive game the Jackets fell behind early but once again crawled their way out of a hole to see the game tied at three after four innings.

The Jackets scored three runs in the fifth inning to make the score 6-3, and they never relinquished the lead. The Jackets were aided by two Georgia Southern errors in the

inning to help fuel the rally.

The Eagles committed four errors overall, while the Jackets improved on their error total for the third consecutive game, committing only a single miscue.

The Jackets had six errors over the course of the weekend, which is a number that certainly will need to see improved before ACC action begins in early March.

"I want to see our team improve," Hall said. "I want to see us cut down our errors. We got the news that Tyler Greene has been released to play, and that will make our club a lot better defensively. We need to improve our defense. We made way too many errors during our first three games. We're just looking for improvement as each game is played."

The Jackets will be at home this weekend against Iona at Russ Chandler Stadium.

The Friday start time will be at 4 p.m. and the Saturday and Sunday start times will be 12:30 p.m. Admission is free for students with a BuzzCard.

Tennis hosts Harvard and GSU

Today at 3 p.m. the men's tennis team takes on Georgia St. at the Bill Moore Tennis Center. The men have a record of 3-1 in dual matches.

Sunday at 2 p.m. the women's team will face Harvard in a home match that will be played outside, weather permitting. The women are currently undefeated in dual matches this year.

ACC changes Tech football schedule

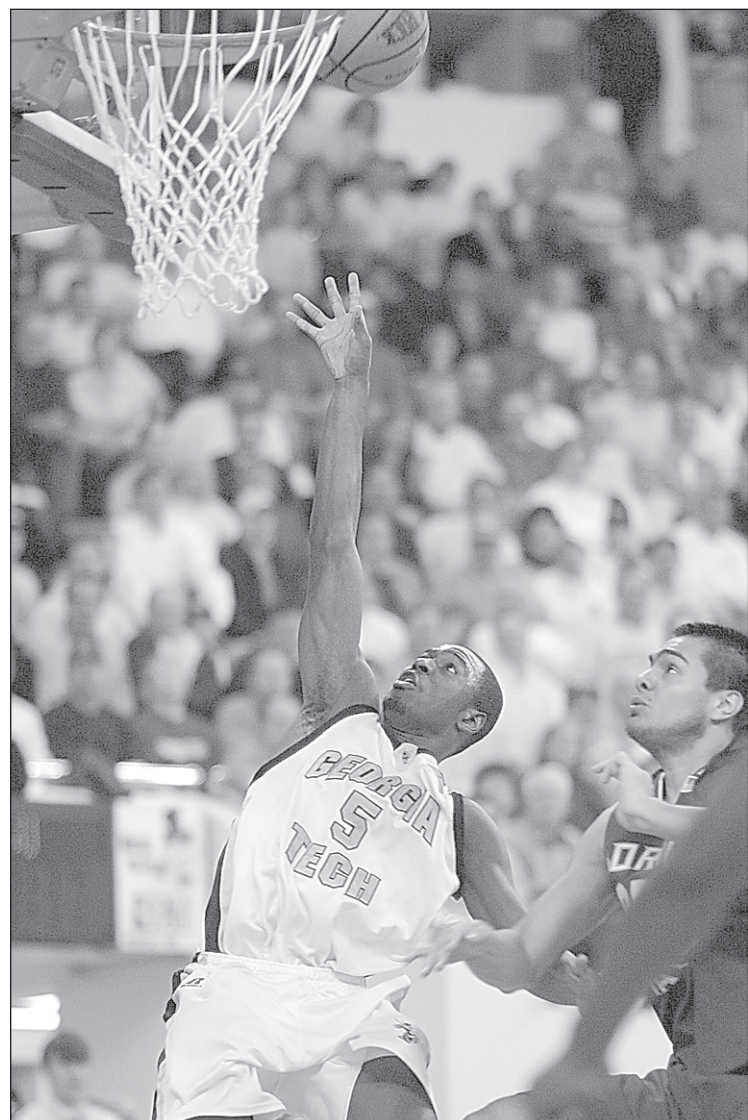
Last week the ACC announced a change of next year's football for Tech. The change is the result of a scheduling issue on the conference level.

Tech will now host Connecticut Sept. 17 and play at Virginia Tech Sept. 24.

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Walk-ons compete for spot on team, chance to play



By Raymond Chafin / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Redshirt sophomore Mario West started out his career as a walk-on. He has found his way to the court as a result of his defensive play.

By Vishal Patel
Contributing Writer

The crowd goes wild as the benches clear and the players who often see little playing time make their way into a lopsided game. With scholarship limitations in college basketball, walk-ons have become a regular addition to college basketball rosters. Just who are these players, and why would they join the team and suffer through practice to play minimal minutes?

There are three players on the team that survived the fall tryout and made the Jacket squad: red-shirt freshman Keith Jones from Austell, Ga., true freshman Tyler Davis from Grayson, Ga., and red-shirt sophomore Mario West from Douglasville, Ga.

The tryout process starts with an email or a trip to Coach Paul Hewitt's office at the beginning of fall semester to find out the actual day of the annual campus-wide walk-on tryout session. This season it was held in October. The tryout process itself is usually a two-day affair controlled by the assistant coaches and Director of Basketball Operations John O'Connor.

The tryout begins shortly after filling out some paperwork, and the students proceed to scrimmage for a majority of the session.

During the tryout, the assistant coaches are mainly spitting out orders and controlling the tempo of the many scrimmages going on, while Hewitt can be found observ-

ing from somewhere in the seats of the Alexander Memorial Coliseum. This is how Keith Jones described his tryout last season—the day he made his way onto the Tech basketball team.

The turnout varies per year according to how well the team plays the previous season and how many

“We came in, we scrimmaged, did some drills for a couple of hours, then...they called us back later that day to let us know...”

Tyler Davis
Freshman walk-on

seniors leave the team from the year before. Generally a high turnout results after many seniors graduate. When Jones tried out two years ago, the pool was among the highest ever with 40 applicants. It was barely in the teens last year with minimal graduation and a large recruiting class, according to Tech's newest walk-on, Davis.

When asked what was most difficult about tryouts, Jones did not hesitate to highlight the uncertainty. The toughest thing was “pretty much not knowing what they were looking for. It was not easy; I did not sleep

the night before,” Jones said.

Already one of the most commendable stories in the book of walk-ons, the story of Mario West and his evolution to a role player and constant contributor could be characterized as a great success achieved through hard work.

It is this hard work that fellow walk-on Davis really admires. “I don't talk to him much, but he tries really hard on the court, and he is a good guy off the court,” Davis said.

Davis describes his tryout as not as difficult as it could have been, given the fact that he considered himself a bit out of shape.

“The tryouts weren't that bad,” Davis said, recollecting his thoughts. “I mean, I was out of shape not having played competitive basketball since my last year of high school. We came in, we scrimmaged, did some drills for a couple of hours, then after that, they called us back later that day to let us know if we made it.”

There was only one day of tryouts in Davis' case because only 15 students tried out this past year. Davis noted that with the small number of applicants, the coaches concentrated on seeing the players in live action.

“Tryouts mainly were pickup. We did a few shooting drills in the beginning, but the majority of it was just pickup and scrimmage-like games. Coach Hewitt was there, but he didn't say anything. The assistant

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Pack

from page 32

Tech. The Jackets struggled immensely with the three-point shot, connecting on only 1 of 14 attempts from beyond the arc.

The loss drops the Jackets to 5-6 in ACC play and 14-8 overall. Although the record is far from what was expected of the Jackets before the season with prognosticators across the country placing the team near the top of their rankings, Hewitt is not disappointed in his team's effort.

"Am I disappointed with some of the losses? Yes. But I wouldn't characterize this team as a disappointment. I still enjoy coaching these guys, and this team practices as well as any team that I've been around. Again, any theories I could give you are just excuses, so I'd rather not," he said.

With five games left in ACC play before the ACC Tournament, the Jackets still have work to do to secure a bid to the NCAA tournament.

The ACC schedule is unforgiving with no "easy wins" in the conference. The Jackets must win at least two, if not three, of their final five games and have a good showing in the conference tournament to breathe easily on Selection Sunday.

Tech plays Florida St. in Tallahassee on Sunday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. The Jackets must be careful not to look past what has classically been a "trap" game for ACC teams on the Seminoles' home floor.

"We've just got to keep moving forward. Obviously we're going to watch the tape and go over some things that we need to do better offensively, but we've got to prepare for Florida State. That's all we can do right now," Hewitt said.

With a contest against the Duke Blue Devils on Wednesday night at Alexander Memorial Coliseum, it may be difficult not to look too far forward, but with a roster full of veterans, this should not be too difficult for Tech.

Recruits arrive from all over globe

Browse the rosters of most Tech teams and you will see the names of a handful of international student athletes.

People like Luke Schenscher, Chioma Nnamaka and Onur Uras are just a few of the many student athletes who come from abroad to play NCAA sports in the United States.

After reading and reporting about a few of these standouts, I became very curious about how the process of international recruiting works and decided to investigate it. What I found out about the process really surprised me.

For starters, I had this idea that successful athletes in other countries would naturally gain the attention of U.S. coaches—as if there's a radar system scanning the globe looking for prospects.

"We've got a potential athlete that just lit up the screen in Stockholm. Prepare to send in the scouts," I imagined. Then a minute-man crew would don their Tech apparel and jet in for reconnaissance.

In reality coaches are so focused on their recruiting efforts of American athletes that they can hardly patrol the rest of the world. They do not have the budget or staff of professional sports teams that can fly scouts all over the world without missing a beat.

Most athletes have to take the initiative themselves, often by emailing U.S. coaches expressing interest to attend an American school.

Freshman swimmer and Turkish Olympian Uras was found this way. "He was one of those guys who sent us a blind email to say 'Here is who I am, and are you interested?'" Swimming and Diving Head Coach Seth Baron said. "He had not made their Olympic team at that point in time. He was kind of an up-and-comer."

"We get far greater international

"We've got a potential athlete that just lit up the screen in Stockholm. Prepare to send in the scouts," I imagined."

Patrick Odneal
Assistant Sports Editor



interest coming our way than we do in accepting their information to take to the next level," Baron said. "Meaning, if I get 20 inquiries from international athletes maybe only three or four truly get our attention to go to the next step and start delving deeper into the recruiting process."

A lot of foreign athletes have roundabout connections to American athletics—kind of like playing six degrees of separation.

Chioma Nnamaka's recruiting process started because fellow Swedish basketball player Jasmina Pacariz mentioned her to the coaches and she wound up at Tech.

Other athletes like Esther van Londen, a freshman tennis player, have run across coaches who have American ties.

A few athletes, like senior tennis star Dasha Potapova, worked through recruiting agencies who try to match American schools with eligible athletes, though this method is not very commonly used at this time.

All these international student athletes at Tech raise to mind the question, "Why do these athletes not play in their home countries?"

Another thing I did not realize is that collegiate sports do not exist in most countries.

I always assumed that each country had their equivalent of the NCAA, but to my surprise I was informed otherwise.

"We're in a unique situation here in the United States. To the best of my knowledge we are the only country in the world that has a collegiate athletic environment," Baron said.

In almost all other countries, playing a sport after high school means trying to go pro. There is no collegiate forum to compete in. But the United States offers the rare opportunity to get a college education while playing sports.

Potapova said that the only way she could have played tennis in Europe would be to try to make it on the pro tour, which means she wouldn't have had time for a university education. "But in the U.S. you can do both," she said.

In a sport like swimming, where there is no well-known professional tour, (although this may change in the coming years) the NCAA venue is one of the most competitive in the world, professional or otherwise.

Baron mentioned that the NCAA Championships provide a "much deeper meet than the Olympics because in the Olympics you're only allowed two people per country. In the NCAA's you might have four or five from a country, but they're representing four or five different schools. So the NCAA Championships is probably the fastest swim meet on an annual basis."

But the main emphasis of the NCAA is academics.

International athletes must meet

the same academic standards as domestic athletes.

To be in compliance with NCAA regulations, this means a student must earn acceptable marks on either the ACT or SAT, even if the athlete is not a native English speaker. In addition each university has its own standards that are often above the minimum NCAA marks.

At Tech, for example, foreign students must also pass an English proficiency test to be admitted.

"Because of the high academic standards here at Georgia Tech, we have to first and foremost, with any student, domestic or international, find out their academic status—their test scores, class ranks and stuff like that," Baron said.

Foreign athletes meet many challenges on campus in addition to just performance on the field.

For those who speak English as a second (or third or fourth) language, these athletes are bombarded with instruction in the classroom and on the field in a language unfamiliar to them.

Like most foreign students, student athletes from other countries usually only see their families twice a year during winter and summer breaks.

But for student athletes, breaks are often cut short to return to practice or competition.

Spending so much time away from their families, international athletes often befriend each other and their teammates.

That's how one day last week I found myself sitting across from Potapova and van Londen, who became friends through tennis. Potapova, a native of Russia who was raised in Spain, and van Londen, a Dutchwoman in her first year at Tech, came together in this foreign land to receive an education and to take part in athletics.

Technique

Making Friday classes more interesting!

Beesball takes 2 of 3 Softball wins FAU Tourney

By Michael Clarke
Senior Staff Writer

Tech opened up the season winning two of the three games over the weekend. The Jackets were upset in the home opener on Friday against Georgia State 5-2 but rebounded to sweep the series in Statesboro against Georgia Southern.

The first game of the season featured a tense bunch of Jackets as Georgia State handed Tech their first loss in a home opener since 1986.

The victory was also the first for the Panthers over Tech since Tech lost to them on the road in 2000.

The Panthers took the early 1-0 lead in the top of the second inning, but the Jackets responded with runs in each of the next two innings to

take a 2-1 lead.

Georgia State managed to hold Tech to only one hit for the remainder of the game, and they took advantage of three errors by the Tech defense and the Jackets hitting into three double plays to win the game 5-2.

Jason Neighborgall started the opener and had a solid outing in his first game of the season. He allowed two runs with only one of them being earned, but would not factor in the decision.

After struggling with control for much of last season, he only threw one wild pitch and walked two.

"We're disappointed that we lost," Coach Danny Hall said. "Sometimes you run into teams that you think

See **Baseball**, page 27



By Charles Frey / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Junior Mike Trapani slides in safely for the Jackets. Tech opened the season by winning two of their first three contests.

By Patrick Odneal
Assistant Sports Editor

Tech softball won the FAU Worth Invitational tournament this past Sunday by beating Bethune-Cookman 2-1 in eight innings of play. With the score at 1-1, junior Christine Sheridan drove in the game-winning run in the bottom of the eighth inning to win the championship.

To start the top of the eighth inning, a runner was placed on second base for Bethune-Cookman because of the international tie-breaker rule. Tech intentionally walked the first batter to place runners on first and second with no outs. And the gamble paid off.

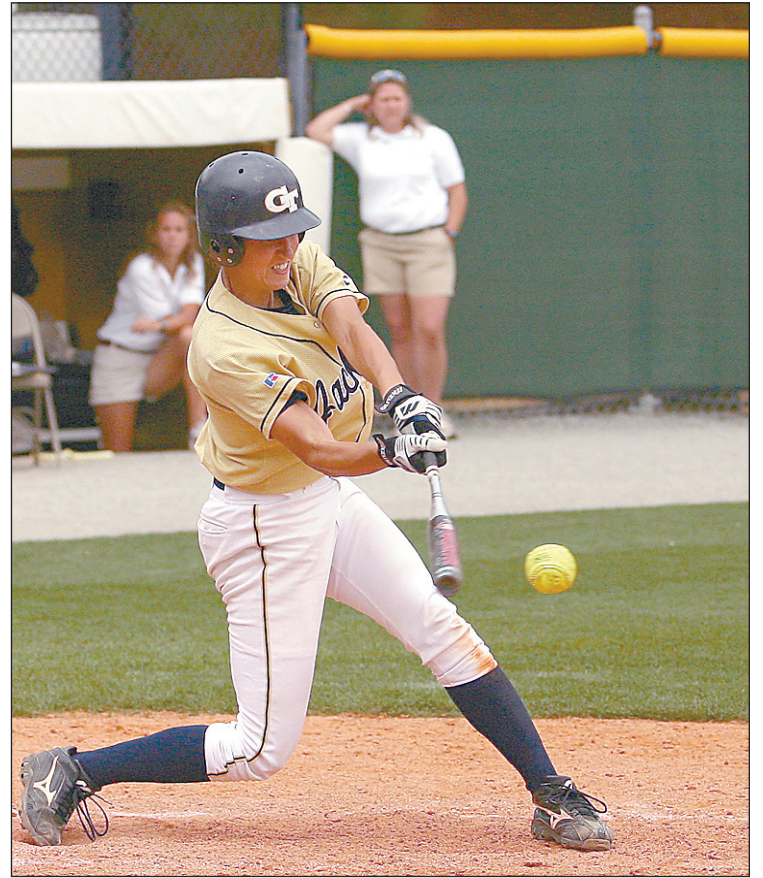
Tech turned a 5-3 double-play on the next batter. Katie Donovan fielded the ball and stepped on third base and threw out the batter to leave a runner on second with two outs. The next batter popped out to shortstop Sheridan to end the top of the eighth inning.

In Tech's half of the final inning, Aileen Morales was placed on second base and then was advanced to third off a Caitlin Lever sacrifice bunt. With one ball and a strike, Sheridan singled to right center field to drive in Morales for the game winning run.

There were just five hits in the game and no errors. Tech's Kirin Kumar and Savannah Brown got hits in addition to Sheridan's game-winning drive. Tech's defense allowed just two hits in the game.

Jessica Sallinger pitched the complete game for Tech and allowed two hits and one earned run. She was coming off a complete-game, seven-inning contest the day before against Florida Atlantic. Tech won that game 10-4 to qualify for the championship.

Tech's first two games of the tournament were played on Friday,



By Stephen Marek / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Tech softball is now ranked No. 16 in the nation and has won their first nine games of the season after defeating Furman on Wednesday.

Feb. 11. In the early contest, Tech downed Boston College 6-2. Sophomore Sarah Wood was the starting pitcher and went four innings giving up five hits and two runs, one earned and one unearned.

To start the fifth inning, freshman pitcher Whitney Humphreys entered the game with the score at 2-2 and picked up the win by giving up just two hits and no runs.

In the sixth inning, junior Liz Bartle hit a solo home run over the left field fence for the go-ahead run to put the Jackets on top 3-2. Bartle finished the game with two RBIs while Sheridan and Kacey Ivey each

drove in one run.

In the second game Friday, Sallinger pitched her second shutout on the season and allowed just three hits as Tech downed Northwestern 3-0.

Sallinger is having another outstanding season. The All-American senior has not gone unnoticed by professional teams. She was recently selected ninth overall in the National Pro Fastpitch Senior Draft. The Tech standout will pitch for the NY/NJ Juggernauts after this season.

The undefeated Jackets play tomorrow at the Georgia State Invitational Tournament at 10 a.m.

Weekly staff meetings:

**Tuesday @ 7:00 PM
in Room 137 of the Flag Building**

SPORTS

Technique • Friday, February 18, 2005

JERRY'S GIRLS IMPRESS

The musical at Ferst honored the stars from Jerry Herman's musicals such as Barbara Streisand and Angela Lansbury. Page 17

SPORTING A GOOD HAND

Poker has become a hot game on campus, combining good times and the chance to match wits with friends. Page 11



sports shorts

Pool players win 9-ball tournament

Two Tech students finished first and second at the ACUI Southeast Regional 9-Ball Tournament hosted at Florida State. Paul Song, a Management major, won first place and Jesse Shieh, a Computer Science graduate student, finished second. Song also won the event last year.

Both players are members of the new Tech Pool Club, which was chartered this past fall. Ten players from the Pool Club competed at the ACUI tournament. The Club welcomes players of all levels.

ACC swimmers invade campus

The women's swimming and diving teams compete today and tomorrow in the ACC Championships.

"We need to get as many people out there as we possibly can—fraternities, sororities, I don't care, people wearing Georgia Tech stuff and cheering for Georgia Tech," said Swimming and Diving Head Coach Seth Baron.

The competition is at the Tech Aquatic Center in the CRC, and admission is free. Men's competition starts this Wednesday.

Wolfpack slips past Tech



By Jamie Howell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Senior forward Isma'il Muhammad flies over N.C. State's Engin Atsur, but the Wolfpack finished on top of the Jackets 53-51.

By Kyle Thomason
Sports Editor

The return of B.J. Elder and Jeremis Smith to Alexander Memorial Coliseum was not quite enough for the Jackets on Sunday evening as N.C. State slipped by Tech 53-51 on a Tony Bethel hoop with just under 10 seconds remaining.

On the final play of the game, Tech ran a high pick-and-roll with Jarrett Jack handling the ball and Luke Schenscher diving to the basket, but the Wolfpack defended the play well, forcing Jack to pass the ball to Elder on the wing. Elder managed to attempt a difficult three-pointer, but it clanged off of the rim and N.C. State held on for the win.

The Jackets played well on the defensive end of the floor but could not score enough points to emerge victorious.

"[It was] a tough night for us offensively. N.C. State has always done a good job of closing down the lane when you drive. They gave us some outside shots that we didn't make, and we had some unforced turnovers that really made it difficult for us to win this game," Head Coach Paul Hewitt said after the game.

Jack led the team with 17 points and 10 rebounds on the night. He was the only Jacket in double digits.

Julius Hodge led the Wolfpack with 15 points and 10 rebounds in N.C. State's sixth straight win over

See Pack, page 29

by the numbers

16

The ranking of the softball team in the ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Poll. It is the highest ranking ever by Tech softball. The 10-0 Jackets play tomorrow at 10 p.m. against Eastern Kentucky at the Georgia State Invitational Tournament.

808

The score of the golf team at the Taylor Made/Waikoloa tournament in Kona, Hawaii, a new school record. The golf team finished second in the three-day tournament.

The best four scores per team are counted each day and totalled for the team score. The 808 total averages to a score of 67.3 per round on the par-72 course.

3

Junior track star Chaunte Howard looks to win her third straight ACC high jump title at the indoor championships this weekend, which run through tomorrow in Chapel Hill, N.C.



By Jamie Howell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Ladies of lacrosse: Katie Flinn chases the ball for Tech's women's lacrosse team. They ventured to Athens last weekend and dropped a pair of tough contests, losing to Florida and UGA.

Women's hoops falls to VT

By Kyle Thomason
Sports Editor

The women's basketball team suffered a couple of tough losses this week. On Wednesday, the Jackets lost to the Virginia Tech Hokies 73-48 in Blacksburg.

In the first half the Jackets shot just 26 percent from the floor, which included being 0 for 5 from behind the three-point arc. At the half, the Jackets were down 32-18 and were unable to recover from the deficit.

Sophomore Stephanie Higgs led the Jackets with 17 points, and freshman Janie Mitchell scored 10 points and pulled in seven rebounds. Jill Ingram had seven points and 10 rebounds in the loss.

One high point for the Jackets was their stellar performance from the charity stripe. They shot 12 for 14 from the free-throw line as a team.

Virginia Tech's Kerri Gardin led all scorers in the contest with 18 points for the Hokies in the winning effort.

Last Sunday the Jackets lost to the Arkansas Razorbacks 71-59 in a game that was played in the Gwinnett Arena.

Four Tech players scored in double figures in the game. Freshman Chioma Nnamaka, Ingram and Mitchell scored 17, 15 and 12 points, respectively, to lead the Jackets in the loss.

"I'm very proud of the effort that we showed today," Head Coach



By Ariel Bravy / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Chioma Nnamaka goes up for a shot against N.C. State. The team's loss against the Wolfpack started a three-game slide for Tech.

MaChelle Joseph said according to www.ramblinwreck.com.

"I have to be proud of the determination that we showed in coming back today, and we've got four games left that we have to keep fighting and digging to win. We lost a lot when we lost Trina [Wilson] this week, and you could see that as we struggled with our depth in the

post today."

The game was tied at halftime, but the Razorbacks pulled away in the second half.

Ingram had five steals against Arkansas. Higgs scored 13 points and blocked two shots.

Tech returns to Alexander Memorial Coliseum to play the Duke Blue Devils on Sunday at 1 p.m.