

## SPORTS

Technique • Friday, February 21, 2003

## by the numbers

9

The national ranking of the University of Texas, who was Tech's men's tennis team's opponent on Sunday afternoon. A win by Tech's West Nott at No. 5 singles allowed Tech's men's tennis team to rally and clinch a 4-2 upset victory over Texas at the Bill Moore Tennis Center.

4

Number of players who scored in double digits for the Lady Jackets in their 86-56 win over the FSU Seminoles Wednesday night. The 30 point margin of victory was the third largest in an ACC game for Tech in school history.

19

Number of times that Tech's baseball team has beaten Georgia Southern in a row. 19 is also the number of times that the Tech team has been to the NCAA tournament, as well as the number of returning players (out of 25) who went to the College World Series.

## atlanta thrashers number challenge

hint: Women's basketball

57.6 %

Here's the number...what does it represent?

To enter email the Sports Editor at [sports@technique.gatech.edu](mailto:sports@technique.gatech.edu) with the correct answer to the challenge. A winner will be selected from among the qualified entries. The winner will receive a pair of tickets to an Atlanta Thrashers home game, where admission is always \$8 for a seat in the \$36 section with a student ID. Visit [www.atlantathrashers.com](http://www.atlantathrashers.com) for more info on college nights.

## on deck

Event	Date
TR at ACC Champs.	2/21-22
WS at ACC Champs.	2/21-22
SB at UF Invite	2/21-23
BSB at Diamond Classic	2/21-23
WT at UGA	2/22
MG at Puerto Rico	2/23
WB at Clemson	2/23
TR - Men's and Women's Track	
WT - Women's Tennis, MG - Men's Golf	
WS - Women's Swimming	
BSB - Baseball	
WS - Women's Basketball	

## Old School in style

What happens to that crazy fraternity lifestyle after graduating from Tech? The 'Nique takes a look at Will Ferrell's new flick. Page 25.

## Intramurals get intense

SAC is turning into a pressure cooker with the intramural seasons wrapping up and the playoff fervor bearing down. Page 25.



## Title bound: Tech Beesball begins

Al Przygocki  
Senior Staff Writer

Last season saw the Joltin' Jackets slam their way to Omaha and the College World Series. 19 of the 25 players who made that trip return for this season to build on the experience, and almost the entire pitching staff is back.

The Yellow Jackets find themselves on everybody's All-American lists, and the experts have tabbed them as the best team in the ACC and the nation.

Coming off one of the best seasons in school history, how will the 2003 Jackets stack up? Fall practices answered some questions, Spring ball answered others, but the big question is still: is this the year that Tech brings home the national title? Let's examine the pieces of that puzzle:

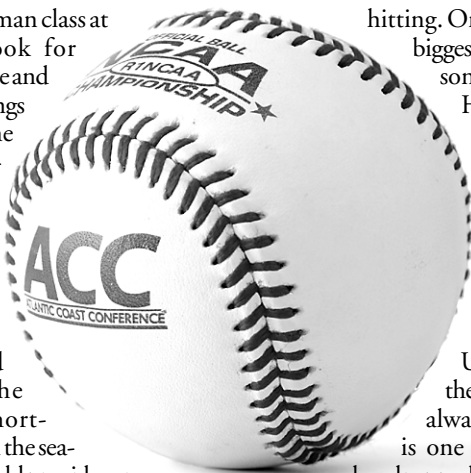
**Freshmen**  
Both Baseball America and Collegiate Baseball ranked this year's freshman class at No. 1. Look for Tyler Greene and Micah Owings to make the biggest impact right away. Greene stepped it up over the course of the fall and will be the starting shortstop to open the season. He should provide very good defense and his hitting should continue to develop.

Micah Owings had probably the best fall of the freshmen and looks

to be able to step in right away as both a starting pitcher and a hitter, either at first base or designated hitting. One of the team's biggest X-factor's is Jason Neighborgall. He has amazing stuff, as evidenced by the 99-mph fastball and devastating curveball witnessed by this observer. Unfortunately, the command isn't always there, which is one of the reasons he dropped in last year's MLB draft.

Several freshmen will fill key back-

See Beesball, page 26



## Talking basketball with Bosh

Clark Nelson and Chris Bosh discuss Tech life, playing ball, and that perpetual question of an NBA possibility

By Clark Nelson  
Contributing Writer

If you haven't noticed a new face walking around campus that almost reaches up to seven-feet, then you must be studying too much or not going to class.

Chris Bosh, a 6-10 freshman forward from Lancaster, Texas, has taken ACC basketball by storm this season. Bosh came to Tech after garnering many high school awards, including Player of the Year by Basketball America as well as being

"He's a heck of a pro prospect. There's no question about that."

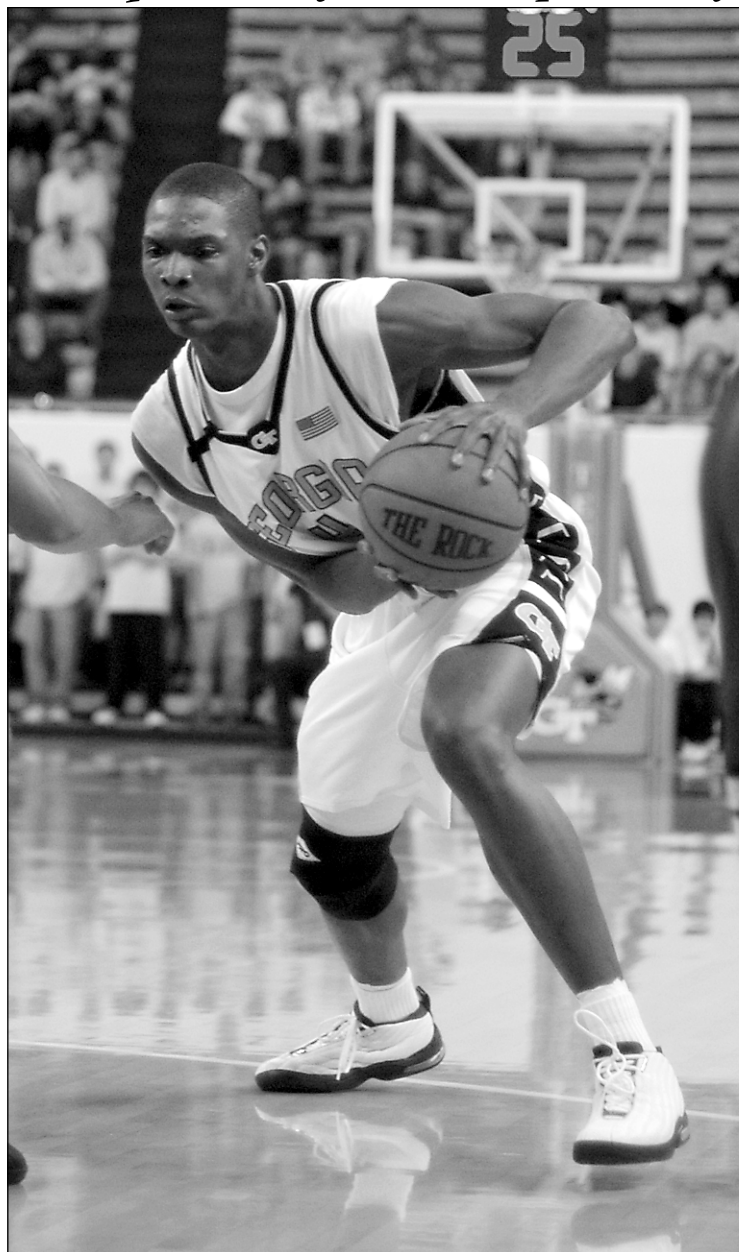
Paul Hewitt  
Head Coach

named "Mr. Texas" by Gatorade.

Entering the Wake Forest game, Bosh leads the ACC in field-goal percentage (57.1 percent) and blocked shots (1.95 per game), ranks second in rebounds and ninth in scoring at 15.6 points a game. Bosh, along with teammates Marvin Lewis and B.J. Elder, has combined for 57.9 percent of the Yellow Jackets scoring this season, a total of 44.5 points a game.

Together with Josh Howard of Wake Forest, Julius Hodge of NC State, Travis Watson of Virginia and Steve Blake of Maryland, Bosh was recently named to the all-District 5 first team by the National Association of Basketball Coaches. He was the only freshman to be named to the first team.

It is easy to say this laid-back freshman has made quite a splash in his first season playing in white and gold on the Flats. Recently, I got to sit down with Chris and ask him a



By The Gooley / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Bosh has not only earned ACC Rookie of the Week four times this season, but was also the only freshman named to NABC All-District 5 first team.

few questions.

**Clark:** Why did you choose Tech? **Chris:** It was the best overall fit for me; the athletic program, Tech is in a great city, and the academic pro-

gram is outstanding.

**Clark:** What do you like most about playing college basketball?

See Bosh Ball, page 27

## sports shorts

## Knudsen named to watch list for USA Softball

Georgia Tech junior All-American shortstop Tara Knudsen was named to the initial 40-player watch list for the second annual USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year Award, as announced Friday by the Amateur Softball Association. This award, which is considered the Heisman Trophy in women's collegiate softball, is designed to recognize outstanding athletic achievement by female collegiate softball players across the country.

## One new face, two new positions in Tech football

David Wilson will assume the roles of special teams coach and recruiting coordinator. Wilson replaces coach Tommy Raye, who left to take a position in the private sector. Wilson came to Tech after five years at Mississippi State and was last year's director of football operations.

Head coach Chan Gailey has also hired Buddy Geis, who was the quarterbacks coach for the NFL's Dallas Cowboys while Gailey was the head coach there, for a yet-to-be announced offensive role, but most likely as the team's quarterbacks coach.

## Tech gymnastics team takes first at UNC Invitational

Tech's gymnastics team hit the road for their second season by traveling to UNC Chapel Hill for an invitational tournament. Of the six teams present at the tournament, three had placed in the top 10 finishers at last year's National Championships. Georgia Tech's team finished with a first-place score of 138.05. Individually, Stephanie Carter took second in All-Around and first on beam with the highest score in the whole meet. Mary Lambo took third in All-Around. The team is hosting a meet on March 22 at Northwinds Gymnastics Center in Alpharetta. See page 27 for photo.

## Georgia Tech to host NCAA YES clinic on campus

Georgia Tech will not only play host to the 2003 NCAA Women's Final Four at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, but also to an NCAA Youth Education through Sports (YES) Clinic on Saturday, April 5 on the Tech campus. Open to boys and girls ages 10 to 18, the YES Clinic is free and runs from 8:30 a.m. until 12 noon at the Georgia Tech Student Athletic Complex.

## Bosh Ball

from page 28



By The Gooley / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

**"I think he's the best freshmen in the ACC, and I don't think it's even close," said ESPN college basketball analyst Jay Bilas of Tech's Chris Bosh.**

**Chris:** Just being able to play basketball... playing NCAA basketball it gives you a good feeling; Watching college basketball growing up, looking up to those guys and now being apart of it.

**Clark:** How has the transition been from high school to college?

**Chris:** It has been tough. College is a lot more serious and intense than high school basketball. School is a lot harder too; it takes a lot of self-discipline.

**Clark:** Is there a player that you try to model your game after?

**Chris:** I would say Kevin Garnett. He is tall and lean just like me, but stronger than people think.

**Clark:** What has been the toughest place to play basketball so far?

**Chris:** Cameron Indoor Stadium at Duke

**Clark:** Do you have a favorite movie?

**Chris:** Blue Chips with Nick Nolte.

**Clark:** What are your hobbies?  
**Chris:** Basketball takes a lot of energy and time so sleeping would be one. I like to read and play video games. Normal things that any oth-

er college kid would like.

**Clark:** What makes you just like any other Georgia Tech student?

**Chris:** I have to study a lot, do well in my classes. Outside of basketball, I am just like any other student.

**Clark:** If basketball doesn't work out, what else would you like to pursue?

**Chris:** I would like to be able to use my management degree, maybe in the real estate field.

Bosh is currently the leading candidate for ACC Freshman of the Year. After already receiving ACC Freshman of the Week on four oc-

"He's not only skilled, but he can play inside or out. He's got a ton of potential. I think he has a chance to be great."

**Jay Bilas.**

ESPN basketball analyst

casions this season, his chances at garnering the title are looking better and better.

"I think he's the best freshmen in the ACC, and I don't think it's even close," said ESPN college basketball analyst Jay Bilas.

"He's not only skilled, but he can play inside or out. He's got a ton of potential. I think he has a chance to be great," Bilas said. "If you had to pick a team and start with one player, I can't imagine it wouldn't be Chris Bosh."

The question of how long Chris Bosh will remain a Yellow Jacket has been raised repeatedly. At a recent home game against Maryland during NBA All-Star Weekend, 23 scouts, including five general managers and two vice presidents for player personnel, were among the attendees to watch Bosh – and the senior-laden Maryland team – do

battle.

"He's a heck of a pro prospect. There's no question about that," Coach Paul Hewitt said. "But I don't think he has given it a whole lot of thought."

"I'm just enjoying college. When people ask me [about the NBA], I don't pay much attention," said Bosh. "I'm just trying to play basketball, that's all. I'm just trying to play."

Not that Bosh hasn't considered the option of the NBA, but he just isn't paying too much attention to it right now.

"Every player thinks about it,"

Bosh said. "Because it's every player's dream. I'm not going to lie about that, but, right now, I'm just enjoying college."

So what happens if the NBA does come knocking on Bosh's door?

"I think in that case, with any player, you have to sit down with your coach, sit down with your mother and father and look over everything in determining the pros and cons of the situation," Bosh said.

"Everybody knows [the NBA] is there. If you're fortunate enough to make it, that's just a blessing."

## Gymnasts take the cake at UNC



Photo courtesy GT Gymnastics Team

**Tech's gymnastics teams gather for congratulatory cake after taking first place at the UNC Chapel Hill invitational tournament.**



Beesball from page 28

up roles. Roswell's Steven Blackwood is the team's fourth outfielder and should see some time as a DH. Ryan Stanley will be the backup at first base, and Andy Hawranick is an excellent catch-and-throw guy who will be the reserve catcher. Jon Crosby and Ryan Self will add depth to an already solid bullpen.

Pitching

Tech will always be better known for its offense, but the strength of

this year's team is its pitching. Last year's pitching staff was one of the best, top to bottom, in school history. The Jackets had three different pitchers win 10 or more games for only the second time in school history (1987), and the staff set a school record for fewest walks allowed per inning.

Meet the new staff, same as the old staff. The pitchers responsible for all 52 wins and 590.1 of 606.2 total innings return. Tech's top four starters and nine men who pitched at least 15 innings last year are back.

Oh, and the new guys are pretty good, too.

Starters

Coming off a 13-2 season, Kyle Bakker returns to his role as the ace of the staff. The other starters figure to be Chris Goodman, Brian Burks, Kyle Schmidt, and Micah Owings. Aaron Walker and Andrew Kown could break into the starting rotation as both had outstanding off-seasons. Jason Neighborgall is an incredible talent but has yet to put it all together and could propel Tech deep into the postseason if he does.

Bullpen

Head coach Danny Hall and pitching coach Bobby Moranda have talked about using their bullpen in a less traditional way. Jeff Watchko will be used as a relief ace to help the Jackets out of whatever critical situation comes up regardless of the inning. He should once again receive solid setup work from Aaron Walker, Jeff Kindel, Nick Wagner, and Jordan Crews. Philip Perry will be redshirting this season as he recovers from Tommy John surgery. The pen will also include Andrew Kown, Chandler Miller, John Berthelsen, and the freshmen: Neighborgall, Jon Crosby, Ryan Self, and Jared Hyatt.

Infield

Only one starting infielder returns from last season's squad. That starter is an All-American. Offensively, the four who moved on may be hard to replace, but defensively this new incarnation will be stronger. Some starting roles will fall to last year's backups, another will see an old face in a new place, and another will be held by a star freshman.

Catcher

Sophomore Mike Nickeas will be looking to step out of the shadow of Tyler Parker and shake off last season's offensive woes in the process. Nickeas did an excellent job behind the plate and handled the pitching staff very well, but has yet to tap his offensive potential. Freshman Andy Hawranick is the backup and is labeled primarily as a catch-and-throw guy whose offense may one day catch up with his defense. Cameron Lane will also see some time behind the plate this season and can play the infield as well.

First Base

Sophomore Clifton Remole will take over Jason Perry's old stomping grounds and punish right-handed pitching. Micah Owings can not only pitch, but also play a little first base. He will probably see a lot more time at DH however, so look for Ryan Stanley to be Remo's primary backup.

Second Base

Sophomore Eric Patterson made everybody's All-America team, was named a team captain, and will be looking to establish himself as one of the premier lead-off men in the nation. Patterson stole 41 bases last year, but after hitting the weight room in the off-season, look for him to add power to his speed game this season. Redshirt freshman Mike Trapani is an outstanding defender

and will be Tech's primary backup in the middle infield.

Shortstop

Freshman Tyler Greene steps into the line of outstanding Tech shortstops as he looks to live up to the number five on his back worn previously by Nomar Garciaparra and Victor Menocal. Right now, he is a defense-first, offense-second player, but look for the offense to grow over the years.

Third Base

After being the Jackets' primary backup infielder for the past two seasons, Davis Myers will open the season as the starting third baseman. There was a three-way battle for the job, and Myers got the nod for his defense and speed on the base paths. Jake Hall, the more consistent hitter, and Garret Groce, the more consistent overall player, will also see a fair amount of time at the hot corner. Mike Nickeas may also see some time at third on days when Hawranick is catching.

Outfield

The Jackets' outfield remains intact with the only change being the substitution of a freshman for a senior in the role of defensive wiz. On this team, the infield's job is to get on base and the outfielders are there to bring them home.

Starters

In left field, Matt Murton is one of the top prospects in all of baseball. He hits for average, hits for power and steals bases. His defense is coming along, too. In center field, Brandon Boggs opened his freshman season as the starter and looks ready to hold the job for the entire 2003 campaign. Right fielder Jeremy Slayden had a breakout season last year as a freshman and will be looking to add to his list of honors this season. Jeremy led the squad last year in every power category and also showed off a powerful, accurate arm in throwing out several base runners.

Reserve Outfielders

Stephen Blackwood took Wes Rynders' old number 26, and will be looking to show the same prowess in tracking down fly balls. Blackwood has showed promise at the plate as well and will split time as the team's fourth outfielder and occasional DH. Fifth year senior Matthew Swain was named a captain of the squad for his hard-working attitude. Swain will be the team's fifth outfielder and role model. Garret Groce, who plays everywhere except pitcher and catcher, will see some in the outfield.

Crossword Answers, from page 17

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Beyond the White and Gold

This could be the year of Fantasy Baseball

By Al Przygocki  
Senior Staff Writer

This is my year. My name will finally grace the Hector Villanueva Cup. This will be a title seven years in the making, the final culmination of years of hard work and a long-term vision.

What am I talking about? Only the premiere competition for baseball lovers and sports geeks, the game of kings: Fantasy Baseball.

In 1980, a collection of professors and professionals with a common love for sports and competitive games met in a New York restaurant called La Rotisserie Francaise.

The restaurant no longer exists, but the game they developed lives on and is going strong 23 years later. They called it rotisserie baseball, but more people know it as either roto or fantasy baseball, and now every sport has a fantasy analog for diehard fans and statheads alike.

About 11 years ago, nine Tech students met in the television lounge in Armstrong and started a roto league.

The next year, they expanded to add three more members. Four of the original nine and all three of the first wave of expansion are still in the league years later. I've been in the league since 1997, and I still feel like the new guy.

It's a strange game. It's a mix of baseball knowledge and financial analysis. I liken it to creating stock portfolios and having them duke it out over the six-month season. Each team has the same amount of fake money to spend on filling out their roster.

The roster has defined slots, and the score is kept based on the stats

that your players rack up in real games during the season. Since a player can only belong to one team, your job is to compete for players and make the most of your roster.

The best day of my year is auction day. It's held on the weekend of the Final Four, which is also the last weekend before opening day.

For that one day, we are general managers, stockbrokers, and come-

"The trophy is the Hector Villanueva Cup, named for the world's most famous athlete. Actually, it's named for the only player who was on the roster of the two teams that won the first two titles."

dians all rolled into one.

The rest of the year we are patent lawyers, aerospace engineers, project managers, VP and part owner of a software company, retail workers, computer specialists, and students/sportswriters. We live in Worcester, Louisville, Huntsville, Savannah, Atlanta and other parts unknown.

We come together from all over the eastern seaboard to spend an entire day talking sports, cracking jokes, and jockeying for bargain players.

As in any established group, the

oldest jokes are the best jokes. We use our own lingo and laugh at things that would take five minutes to explain. I love it.

Our league is the Professional League of Procrastinators. That name was a joke from the first auction, but we've never gotten around to changing it. I guess it fits.

The trophy is the Hector Villanueva Cup, named for the world's most famous athlete. Actually, it's named for the only player who was on the roster of the two teams that won the first two titles.

Hector is still playing in Latin America. I dream of having him as a guest of honor for an awards banquet one year. We don't have a banquet, but if we could get him to come, I think we would arrange one.

The auction is the best day of the year, but I think about my team and my roster almost every day of the year.

We have a keeper league, so we don't start from scratch every year. We have winter rosters, waiver claims, prospect rosters, and many trades. Every day is a chance to improve your roster or at least obsess over it.

In the gap from the Super Bowl to the Final Four, we spend all of our time doing research and figuring out new strategies. We buy books, magazines, and online subscriptions.

We sit with our spreadsheets and try to concoct new strategies or simply fine-tune our old ones. We really like each other, but we really, really want to win and claim superiority over our fellow geeks, er, I mean, experts.

This year, the Fowl Poles will take the Cup, baby!

I can dream, can't I?

Intramural Notebook

with Jack. B. Nimble

Who's in the playoff hot spot?

It's time to talk intramural playoffs. All of the regular seasons are winding down and it's time see who needs to do what to get in. We've got NFL-esque scenarios here.

Let's start with what's most important, A-League soccer. On the greek side, five teams will get in, with Theta Xi, Beta and Lambda Chi having already sewn up playoff berths. For the last two spots, FIJI, Pike, Sigma Chi and TKE all still have a shot.

Here the most interesting scenario is probably Sigma Chi's. Having finished 2-2, they likely need a tie in the FIJI/Pike match and a loss or tie from TKE against Lambda Chi. Nothing is weirder than cheering for a tie.

On the independents side, it looks like anyone not named Red Rockets Too can just go home. The Rockets finished up their regular season this week with a 7-0 thrashing of Redrum to finish 4-0, outscoring their opponents 23-1.

This includes a 4-1 rout of the second best team in their division. Hrvatska and Carlsberg look to be the only possible challenges for the Rockets, having both compiled unbeaten records to this point.

In the women's division, Alpha

A League Basketball Top 10

- 1. Phi Darts
- 2. Sigma Nu
- 3. Sig Ep
- 4. Pike
- 5. ESPN All-Stars Pt. 2
- 6. Still Here
- 7. FIJI
- 8. Love for Donuts
- 9. Alpha Tau Omega
- 10. Beta Theta Pi

Gam is the favorite with a 2-0-1 record with one match left. ADPi could be a dark horse though, as they haven't given up a goal yet in three matches and have a 1-0-2 record to show for their efforts.

In A-league basketball, with 16 of 24 teams going to the playoffs, most everybody still has a reason to play. In fact, of the teams with a game left to play, only the winless teams can't get into the playoffs with a win.

As for the favorites, Phi Darts looks good out of the independent bracket. As for the greeks, Pike, FIJI, and Beta look to be the strongest teams at this point, as usual.

Women's basketball has a more clear-cut picture. Here, everything points to a matchup between Phi Mu and Romans for the championship, with each of them having cruised through their regular seasons undefeated.

Should they meet, there is no way to predict the outcome, since there isn't any way to compare the strength of their competition so far.

Next week, we'll take a quick look at A-league wallyball, where almost everyone goes to the playoffs, and start looking at the B-league sports.

A League Soccer Top 10

- 1. Theta Xi
- 2. Red Rockets Too
- 3. Beta Theta Pi
- 4. Hrvatska
- 5. Lamda Chi Alpha
- 6. Carlsberg
- 7. FIJI
- 8. Impotent Seasnakes
- 9. FCFB
- 10. African Samba