

Howard excels both on the field and in class

By Clark Nelson

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Chaunte Howard has always set her goals high. The current Indoor and Outdoor NCAA Champion in the high jump has always had aspirations to compete and win a gold medal in the Olympics one day.

Growing up in California, Chaunte says that she always wanted to run, but did not start competing in high jump until freshman year of high school. Howard was a seven-time prep national champion while winning the indoor and outdoor high jump national championships in 2001 and 2002.

J.W. North High School won the California state titles in 1999, 2000, 2002 and the 2001 national title while Howard competed. In addition to jumping, Chaunte garnered All-American honors in the triple jump, 4x100 relay, 4x200, and 4x400 relay teams. All of these feats were accomplished while being a member of the National Honor Society.

Howard's journey to Atlanta began when she received a call from assistant coach Nat Page and decided to do a little research on Tech's women's track and field program. After making a recruiting visit, Chaunte decided to travel cross-country from Riverside, CA to attend Tech.

"I fell in love with the school and knew I wanted to be here," Howard



By Jamie Howell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Chaunte Howard won the national title in the women's high jump at the NCAA National Championships with a clear of 6'4.00". Howard has won back-to-back national titles and will participate in the Olympic trials coming up next month.

said.

The track star admits her freshman year was tough being so far away from home, but after a semester she became more comfortable with her surroundings.

"I was extremely homesick, but I had my teammates and made friends. It went away during my second semester," says Howard.

As a freshman, Chaunte introduced herself to the ACC by winning

the indoor and outdoor championships with jumps of 6'0.0" each. The California native also finished third in the triple jump at the ACC Indoor event and finished sixth in the long jump. Tech's 4x200 meter relay team, with the aid of Howard, set a new school mark at the Penn Relays. On the national level Chaunte was a runner-up while collecting All-American honors at the NCAA Outdoor Championships.

A successful freshman campaign was followed by an even more successful sophomore season. Howard won the NCAA Indoor Championships with a mark of 6'3.5", breaking the Yellow Jackets old record. Chaunte won a total of 6 meets in the high jump event, including her second-straight ACC crown.

More records were to be broken in the outdoor season by the sophomore. At the Outdoor ACC

Championships, Howard set a new ACC and Georgia Tech record with an Olympic Qualifying Standard mark of 6'4.75" while earning her fourth straight ACC crown. Chaunte also set personal marks in the long jump, triple jump and 100-meter hurdles. Currently, Howard holds both the top high jump mark in the outdoor for the NCAA and ranks third in the United States. For all her performances, the All-American was named the ACC Performer of the Year and awarded a total of seven All-ACC honors.

It may seem Howard has a lot of individual awards, but she also strives very hard to help out her team. Georgia Tech's women's Track and Field team finished tied 15th place at the NCAA Outdoor Championships, their highest finish ever. A total of seven Tech athletes won All-American honors, the highest ever by a Tech squad.

"I am really proud I was able to work hard and do this [high jump champion] for our team; we worked hard and it paid off."

Howard's goals while at Tech are not solely focused on track. "I want other athletes in the country to know that you can excel academically and athletically [at Tech]," says Howard.

Next up for Howard is the Olympic Trials in Sacramento July 9-14. She hopes she can qualify in the high jump for U.S. Olympic Team and reach her goals of winning a gold medal.

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meters. Rhett posted personal-record times of 11.29 and 23.24 in the preliminaries of the 100 and 200, finishing eighth in the 200 and ninth in the 100.

Sophomore Brandy Depland and Kidd rounded out competitors for the Jackets. Depland tallied an 18th-place finish in the triple jump with a mark of 42'0.00", while Kidd finished 19th in the 400 meters with a time of 53.68. The women's track and field team scored 14 points to finish in a tie for 15th place.

Junior Montrell Person posted a personal-record time of 13.53 in the prelims of the 110-meter high hurdles, finishing ninth in the finals with a time of 14.18. The Merrillville, Indiana native earned All-America honors for the first time in his career.

All-America Brendon Mahoney was named to the CoSIDA Academic All-America Track and Field second team, announced on Tuesday by the College Sports Information Directors of America.

To be eligible, a student-athlete must be a varsity starter or key reserve, maintain a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.20 on a scale of 4.00, have reached sophomore athletic and academic standing at his current institution and be nominated by his sports information director.

Mahoney, a Cumming, Georgia native is Tech's third Academic All-America of the year, joining volleyball standout Kele Eveland and softball pitcher Erin Voeltz.

Earlier in the season, the Jackets' men's team tallied 17 points to record a 12th-place finish at the NCAA East Region meet. They also finished fourth with 103 points in the outdoor ACC championships.

The women's team posted an eighth-place finish at the NCAA East Region Championships and second at the outdoor ACC championships.



By Christopher Gooley / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Tech's shortstop Tyler Greene attempts to get UGA's Joey Side out at second base. Tech lost both games of the Super Regional to Georgia to miss out on a College World Series berth.

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Morris was intentionally walked to load the bases. Side hit a ground ball to Trapani who tripped on the base while throwing to first and sending the ball over Robbins head to allow another run to score.

Tech responded in the top of the eighth inning to tie up the game. Trapani recorded the team's second hit of the game with a lead off single. Patterson bunted him over to second. Trapani moved over to third on an infield single. Blackwood drove him in on a fielder's choice play, but Owings was unable to keep the inning going.

In the bottom half of the inning, Brian Burks hit Jason Jacobs with a pitch. Jonathan Wyatt hit a two-run homerun to give the Bulldogs the 5-3 lead. The homerun was Wyatt's first career homerun. Startup came

in and pitched a scoreless ninth to end the Jacket's season.

"I don't what it was to be quite honest. We did things today that were uncharacteristic of our team this year. Heading into the weekend, this was the highest fielding percentage a team at Tech had ever had during a season, but we certainly didn't look like it this weekend," replied Hall when asked if his team came out nervous.

"I'm very proud of my guys. Even though we are disappointed, I'm very proud of this team. To come from where we were at one point during the season is great, and it says a lot about our team. I think it was a great season, and I learned a lot from a coaching standpoint from our team this year. Things didn't go our way early, but to our team's credit, they believed in themselves and I think in turn my staff and I believed in them," Hall said.

BEYOND THE WHITE AND GOLD

NCAA introduces needed changes in baseball playoffs format

By Michael Clarke
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In recent years, the NCAA has tried to make changes in the format of the NCAA tournament and College World Series for the benefit of the collegiate baseball postseason. Most of the changes have been successful, but some might need to be expanded upon.

Up until six years ago, the NCAA tournament featured eight Regional tournaments followed by the winners going to Omaha to compete in the College World Series. The NCAA made an incredibly smart move by breaking up the regional tournaments into 16 four-team tournaments and pairing them up to allow for a Super Regional to occur. The Regional remained double elimination, and the Super Regional was the best two out of three.

To improve upon this even more, it would be nice to have three rounds of best of three series. Yes, it will drag out the season another week, but the competitive atmosphere around the events will grow. This would also help to spread the game in other parts of the country, and to help some of the teams that wouldn't get any national exposure a bit of publicity.

Baseball is a game where any team can close on any day, and this adjustment would make it so that a team that loses on the first day isn't almost certainly eliminated.

This past season was the first

that the College World Series was broken up like each of the Regional was. The winner of each double elimination bracket faces off in the Championship Series. This improved system helps teams that win early, but it doesn't spell disaster for the teams that lose on the first day of play. It has never been impossible for team's to come out of the losers bracket as 10 out of the previous 32 finalists have come out of the loser's bracket.

Another change that is under review by the NCAA is to push back the College World Series into the middle of July instead of at the end of June. The season won't be extended, but instead of it starting in early February, it will start in early March. This change might be good for the game, but from a student perspective this will mean that students are able to see far fewer games each year. Currently, the season ends about a month after finals.

With the new changes, the average college student will only be able to see two months of baseball instead of following team for most of the regular season, but it would help those of us that decide to subject ourselves to the summer semester. The later start will also make for better baseball in the northern parts of the country that are still experiencing snow in February and into March.

The College World Series this year is in Omaha, Nebraska, where it's been played since 1950, with the final championship-series game on either Sunday, June 27 or Monday, June 28.

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CAMPUS SUICIDES

Stress and depression can lead some students to attempt suicide. Find out what resources are available for help. Page 7

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

The musical *The King and I*, based on Margaret Landon's book, comes to the Fox Theatre. Page 9



by the numbers

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The Women's Track and Field team's finishing rank at the outdoor NCAA Championships held in Austin, Texas. This is the highest ever finish by Tech's team. A record total of seven All-America honors were earned by the Jackets at the championships, the highest number ever by a Tech squad.

6

The number of errors Tech's baseball team made against Georgia in the two games of the Super Regional held at Russ Chandler Stadium. They also had only 13 hits in the two games, four of them coming in the second game. Tech lost both games and missed out on a chance to compete in the College World Series. Georgia (43-21) advanced to the College World Series for the second time in four years and the fourth trip overall.

13

The number of times Tech's golf team has been selected to be awarded with All-American team honors in the last 14 years. Junior Nicholas Thompson was named to the third team, and junior Chan Wonglukiet and freshman Roberto Castro earned honorable mention in the PING All-America teams for 2004. The Jackets finished fifth in the NCAA men's golf championships.

3:47.62

Time recorded by Senior Brendon Mahoney in the finals of the 1500 meters at the outdoor NCAA championships to finish in tenth place. The Cumming, Georgia native advanced to the finals with a time of 3:47.02 in the preliminaries and earned All-America honors for the first time in the 1500 meters, third time overall (800 meters and mile), finishing as one of the top eight American competitors.

48

ACC-high number of bases stolen by Tech junior second baseman Eric Patterson in the last season. Patterson is ranked second in Georgia Tech and ACC history with 124 career stolen bases. The Kennesaw, Georgia native is one of three players in Tech history to earn first-team All-Atlantic Coast Conference honors in three consecutive years.

Track and Field shatters records

Chaunte Howard wins back-to-back national titles

By Suyog Mody

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Sophomore Chaunte Howard captured her second straight national championship in the women's high jump at the NCAA Track and Field Championships in Austin, Texas. Howard finished with a clear of 6'4.00" to lead the women's track and field team.

The Riverside, California native is the first Tech athlete to win back-to-back national titles and is now a four-time All-American athlete. She currently holds the third best mark by an American, 6'4.75", and will compete in the U.S. Olympic trials in Sacramento, California to be held July 9-18.

"She was very relaxed out there," said Assistant Coach Nat Page in a press release. "She was comfortable at those heights tonight and made some really nice jumps."

In other competitions, senior Amandi Rhett finished ninth with a time of 23.56 in the women's 200 meters. Senior Brendon Mahoney finished 10th in the men's 1500 meters with a time of 3:47.62.

The women's 4x100-meter relay team of Dana Rogers, Ashlee Kidd, Andriane Lapsley and Amandi Rhett finished sixth with a time of 44.25 to earn All-America honors. It is the



By Jamie Howell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Brendon Mahoney came in 10th in the men's 1500 meters at the NCAA championships with a time of 3:47.62. He was named to the CoSIDA Academic All-America Track and Field second team.

first time in program history that a 4x100m relay team has earned such honors. Amandi Rhett garnered three All-America honors for the

Jackets at the national championship meet in the 100, 200 and 4x100

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Loss to UGA ends baseball season

By Michael Clarke

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Tech's baseball season came to a shocking conclusion this past weekend at the hands of rival Georgia. As expected, both of the games were highly contested nail biters, but Tech was unable to come up with the one big play to put them over the hump in either game. The team lost Friday's game 7-5, and then they lost again on Saturday 5-3 to end their season with a 44-21 record.

The Jackets opened up the scoring in the first game of the series. In the bottom of the first inning, Eric Patterson led off the inning with a single. Steven Blackwood drove Patterson home with a one-out double, but Georgia starter, Michael Hyle, was able to retire the next two hitters to get out of the inning.

Georgia took the lead in the first inning after Josh Smith singled and Justin Holmes doubled to put both runners in scoring position. Marshall Szabo drove in the first two runs of the inning after getting the third consecutive hit off of Micah Owings. Szabo was caught stealing, and Josh Morris struck out to clear the bases with two outs in the inning. Owings walked Joey Side to put another runner on base. Side stole second base despite Mike Nickeas making a beautiful throw down to second.

Unfortunately for Tech, Tyler Greene was unable to take control of the ball and apply the tag. Owings walked the next Georgia hitter, and Bobby Felmy made him pay with a three run homerun over the right

field wall.

"I wish Tyler Greene could have held on to [the throw from Nickeas on] that steal attempt (in Georgia's five-run third inning) because that would have been the third out of the inning," said Head Coach Danny Hall.

The Jackets responded in their half of the third inning. Mike Trapani led off the inning with a single, and Patterson hit a two-run shot to close the gap to 5-3. Georgia pitchers walked the bases loaded in the fourth inning, but Tech was unable

"We did things today that were uncharacteristic of our team this year... [We] didn't look like it this weekend."

Danny Hall

Baseball head coach

to capitalize with a hit to score any of the runners.

Georgia added their final two runs in the seventh inning after being helped by an error by Brandon Boggs. Nickeas responded in the bottom half of the inning with a leadoff homerun. Tech rallied to add one more in the eighth inning, but it wouldn't be enough as they dropped the opener 7-5.

Will Startup pitched the final three innings of the game for Georgia. He allowed only one run

on two hits to get his ninth save of the season. Tech was 2-10 with runners in scoring position leaving nine runners on base six of which were in scoring position.

"We had a couple of situations we didn't capitalize on, and if we make a couple of plays here and there, it may be a different ball game," said Patterson.

The Jackets were set to face their first elimination game of the post season on Saturday, and nerves were apparent in the first inning. Smith led off the game for Georgia with a leadoff single. Justin Holmes ripped a groundball at Trapani, but he was unable to get a hold of it to pick up the first error of the game. Georgia had two runners on with two out when Side hit a groundball to Patterson. Patterson lobbed the ball over Whit Robbins head to allow the first run of the game to score. Andrew Kown kept the Jackets into the game by not allowing an earned run until the seventh inning to keep the team's hope alive. Sean Ruthven had an equally impressive performance on the mound for Georgia. Ruthven allowed only a single walk until the fifth inning of the game.

In the top half of the fifth inning, Ruthven walked two of the first three Tech batters that came to the plate. Trapani came through for the Jackets with a clutch two-out double to drive in Robbins and Remole. In the bottom of the seventh, the first three Georgia batters all had hits to have runners on second and third base. Szabo popped out, and Josh

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sports shorts

Tech wins ACC sports award

Tech was named the recipient of the first-ever Atlantic Coast Conference Sportsmanship School of the Year Award, the conference office announced last Thursday. Tech won the overall award by virtue of winning outright sportsmanship awards in the highest percentage of its sponsored sports (26.7 percent). The Yellow Jackets won awards in four sports: Women's Indoor Track & Field, Women's Tennis and Men's and Women's Outdoor Track & Field. A traveling trophy will be on display on campus for one year.

Track and Field coach wins award

Tech Men's and Women's Track and Field Assistant Coach Nat Page was named the 2004 Mondo Women's Jumps/Multi events Coach of the Year, announced by the United States Track Coaches Association last Monday afternoon. Page tutored Tech's first back-to-back national champion Chaunte Howard at the indoor and outdoor championships. Since joining the Tech team in 1997, Page has mentored one national champion, 15 ACC champions and 18 All-America performances.

Patterson in All-American team

Tech's junior second baseman Eric Patterson was named to the third All-American team by Baseball America and Collegiate Baseball. In 2004, Patterson hit .326 with nine home runs and 46 RBI while leading the Yellow Jackets to the NCAA Super Regionals. He also holds the record for second-most stolen bases in Tech and ACC history with 124 career stolen bases. This is the second time in his career that Patterson has been named to an All-American team. He was an eighth round draft pick of the Chicago Cubs on June 7.

Sallinger pitches against Team USA

Tech junior Jessica Sallinger threw four innings against the U.S. Softball team last Friday night, holding the World's best to one run through three innings, before surrendering three in the fourth inning at the James Moyer Softball Complex as the College All-Stars fell to the U.S. National Team, 6-0. In the 2003-04 season, Sallinger became the second pitcher in ACC history to surpass a 1,000 strikeouts, ending her junior campaign with 1,025. She was named to the All-ACC team and was tabbed All-Southeast Region first team for the second time in her career, the first being in 2002.