#### ACC

from page 28

"Other coaches are

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Swimming head coach

swimming."

**Seth Baron** 

of the headlines for men's swimming this week, Baron was particularly impressed by the courageous efforts of sophomore Tony Burkhardt, who, despite suffering an injury from hitting the board on his first dive, pushed through and tallied an eighth-place finish on the three-meter board with a score of 400.85.

"Tony Burkhardt last night was probably one of the most inspirational performances we have seen. You cannot say enough for that kind of gutsy performance and that kind of commitment to the program.

For some one like Tony to step up and finish that event to get the points for the program even though he was bleeding was the boost needed for the men's team," Baron said.

In the same event Tech freshman Evan Stowers broke the school record with an 11-dive

score of 537.20 to finish fourth. The University of Virginia captured its seventh consecutive Men's ACC title while the University of Maryland won their first-ever Women's ACC title.

It was the first time Tech hosted the ACC Championships, and Baron noted that things went very smoothly. "We received nothing but praise and compliments from my peers and their coaching staffs, administrators, ACC administration and spectators. It makes us feel good to know that all of our hard work has paid off to make it a successful Championship," he said.

"Tech has a great facility, probably one of the top three in the country. Other coaches are excited to be here because they know that

this is the kind of environment that will produce fast swimming. That's proven," Baron said.

Tech will have the chance to display its outstanding facilities next year on a national level. The Jackets will host the NCAA Men's Swimming and Diving Championships in March 2006, and there is a good chance of the ACC Championships returning within three years.

Tech's swimming programs are relatively young. The women's program is only in its fourth year, and while the men's team started in 1919, the modern era dates to 1989, when the team reemerged after a one year hiatus.

When asked about the impact of hosting this championship to gain recognition, Baron was quick to point out the importance of hosting non-collegiate meets as well.

"We need to get some non-collegiate meets here of high caliber to attract promis-

ing recruits. We are talking about hosting the U.S. Open Swimming Championship in December 2007, which will bring great exposure. The word is slowly getting out about these facilities," he said.

"Last fall we saw an increase in the number of recruits as well as in the talent level of recruits. We know that only the facility is not the magic button. We have got to sell the program, and there is a lot of responsibility on the coaching staff and on myself to get this done. But I honestly believe that we will move the program forward," Baron said.

With significant improvements in team performances and with school records falling left and right at the ACC Championships, Tech's program is surely making noise.

## Baseball splits weekend series

By Joseph Jeong
Contributing Writer

Wes Hodges and Jason Neighborgall continued their impressive start to the season but could not stop the visiting Rutgers from stealing one from No. 13 Tech as they split the weekend series. The rubber game on Sunday was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Neighborgall improved to 2-0 for the season by holding Rutgers to two runs on three hits in six innings. He struck out six and issued only two walks to earn the win in the opening game of the weekend series.

Hodges continues to be Tech's leading performer on offense with three hits, all of them for extra bases including two solo home runs. Jeff Kindel matched that number of hits and contributed with two RBIs.

Danny Payne also had a multiplehit game with two hits for two RBIs. Overall the Tech sluggers outhit Rutgers 11-7 in the opening game. It started out as a close game with Tech holding on to the lead 3-2 after five innings, but Tech had a big sixth inning to pull away 11-2.

Rutgers attempted a late rally in the seventh and eighth to make it 11-6, but Matt Wieters came in and shut the door on them.

Jeff Frazier led Rutgers with three hits, including a home run in the seventh inning and four RBIs.

Saturday's game started out well for Tech when they jumped to an early 6-1 lead, but Rutgers rallied back in time to tie the game in the ninth and behind a very strong performance by their bullpen stole the game 10-9 in the 13th inning with an unearned run.

Hodges was again Tech's hottest bat, with a career-high five hits including his team-leading sixth home run. Tyler Greene had four hits and Jeremy Slayden added three more as five Tech players had



By Julia Bunch / STUDENT PUBLICATION

Whit Robbins stretches out at first base on a close play against Rutgers. The Jackets split a pair of games against the Scarlet Knights.

multiple-hit games.

Despite the gaudy offensive numbers, Tech didn't get the timely hits they needed to win the game and stranded 18 runners on base, including Mike Trapani on second with no outs in the 13th inning.

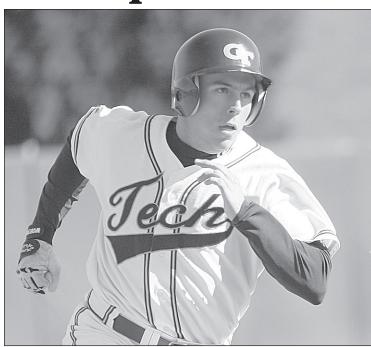
Rutgers' bullpen was the star of the game as the trio of Sean Spicer, Tim Woodulland and Jim Jansen pitched 10 innings and only allowed one run despite allowing eight hits and walking seven. Jordan Crews picked up the loss for Tech, and Tim Woodhull got the win for Rutgers as the Scarlet Knights snapped Tech's winning streak at seven.

On Tuesday Tech faced Georgia

Southern at Russ Chandler Stadium. The Jackets prevailed 9-1 over the Eagles to improve to 8-2 on the season. The win was the 700th career victory for Head Coach Danny Hall. The last 492 of those victories have been earned at Tech.

Wieters received his first collegiate victory by throwing 3.2 scoreless innings in relief for the win. He also batted in a run as Tech's designated hitter. Tyler Greene drove in two runs in the victory for the Jackets. On Wednesday the Jackets lost an exhibition contest against the Atlanta Braves by the score of 12-0. They start ACC play this weekend against Duke.

## Local product Blackwood produces in outfield



By Darren Sabino / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Junior outfielder Steven Blackwood played in the Cape Cod League over the summer where using a wooden bat helped tune his swing.

By Michael Clarke Senior Staff Writer

When someone grows up in metro Atlanta, there are a few obvious choices as to where one will go to college. Steven Blackwood grew up in Roswell, and living in a Bulldog family could have led to tension in the decision-making process, but this was not the case for the star outfielder.

"Tech was definitely a frontrunner in terms of where I wanted to go to college," Blackwood said. "I grew up in a Georgia family, and my brother actually went to UGA. He's seven years older than me. I'm very honored to be recruited by Tech. They were one of the last schools to talk to me but the first to make an offer. I was very pleased to hear about that, and it definitely changed where I wanted to go to school."

Not only has Blackwood's older brother been there for him in the sports arena, but also Blackwood describes him as the ideal big brother in terms of setting a good example.

"Definitely my family, but more specifically my brother [had a large influence on my life]," Blackwood said. "He's been the one figure in my life that has always been supportive and there for me. I've been very blessed to have a brother like that to guide me in the right direction and down the right path."

As expected, Blackwood's brother wasn't too keen on him attending Tech, but he played the good brother role in not trying to deter his brother from playing for the Jackets.

'He is a die-hard Georgia fan, so it was kind of a tough pill for him to swallow," Blackwood said. "He knew the opportunity that I would get for coming to a school of this caliber with the academics and the athletics. He will actually agree that Tech is better academically and on par athletically. I think that Tech is a bit better in baseball, but overall he was very supportive of the process. He never pushed me one way or the other, and since I never was recruited by UGA that never became an option. He was very supportive in trying to find a school that would fit me best."

After being swept in last year's Super Regional, Steven was expecting his brother to constantly remind him of the loss. Instead of being a typical UGA fan, his brother reminded him a bit, but did not rub it in.

"Actually, when the pain went away helet in a little bit," Blackwood said. "From the start he was more upset because he wanted to see me go to the College World Series and for me to have that experience. He was very happy that UGA won, but he backed off a bit. He kind of didn't do what I expected him to do as a typical UGA fan."

For most Tech students there is an adjustment to college life, but for most athletes the rigorous academics

"Overall this summer I worked on my arm strength. Mechanics have been one thing that the coaches are always working with me on."

## **Steven Blackwood** Junior outfielder

take even more of a toll. Blackwood uses baseball as a release from the stress of classes.

"When I first came in it was kind of overwhelming especially as a Biology major [with a pre-med concentration]," Blackwood said. "The academic side definitely gets magnified when you go to class and have to take the books on the road. Once you get into a set routine, you kind of look forward to being back. Ilook forward to the baseball season because it gives me a release from the academic side of it. I realized that I can put it aside and enjoy something

else during my time here."

Over the summer, Blackwood was playing in the Cape Cod League for the Orleans Cardinals. Unlike college and high school baseball, the league gave him the opportunity to play with a wooden bat.

"I was able to work with a wooden bat," Blackwood said. "You have a smaller sweet spot, and you have to trim your swing down a little bit. You have to have a compact swing because a long swing just doesn't work. That definitely helped me out this summer because coming back you have the aluminum bat you have more freedom. You can make a few more mistakes here and there to get away with. Overall this summer I worked on my arm strength. Mechanics have been one thing that the coaches are always working with me on. I did a lot of work on my mechanics over the summer, and it is starting to pay off."

In the few instances when he is not studying or practicing, Blackwood tries to kick back and relax. "[I'm] probably playing X-Box [in my free time]," Blackwood said. "That's one thing that my roommates and I enjoy doing. That's kind of our relaxing time when we have nothing else to do. When we have no tests the next day or a day off from baseball we'll hang around watching TV. When college football is in season we are definitely enjoying that. Once I got to Tech, I learned that days off are very valuable. You don't get that many, so you have to take advantage of them.'

## Young hoops team prepares for ACC Tournament

By Vishal Patel
Contributing Writer

Despite ending the regular season on a six-game losing streak, excitement is brewing in the clubhouse as the regular season has concluded and much-anticipated postseason play begins today when Tech squares off against the Lady Hurricanes from Miami in the first game of the 2005 ACC Tournament.

"Miami is a new team, and I am a new player so I don't know too much about them, but we have had a chance to play them early in the year. It was a really good game and as you know they have the nation's leading scorer on their team and everything pretty much revolves around her," said freshman forward Janie Mitchell, who has made a late push into the starting lineup with her ability to crash the boards and to rise to the occasion in the absence of the injured Kasha Terry.

Freshman point guard Jill Ingram likes the team's chances against Miami. "We match up pretty good against them," Ingram said. "The key for us to win the game is just to rebound and play solid defense. If we stick to that plan, then we can win the game," she said.

Ingram recalls a comforting quote from the plethora of maxims and sayings on Coach MaChelle Joseph's white board in her office that she thinks has gotten the team through a tough season at times: "Never get too low after a loss or too high after a win."

"I think that fits perfectly with us because if you lose, don't sit and ponder on it, get back and get the next win. And if you win, great, but you can't sit on that one victory," Ingram explained.

As a native of North Carolina, Ingram was not like the other Carolinians who chose sides between two of basketball's best in the state: Duke and North Carolina. Instead Ingram left her slate clean and chose Tech.

"Growing up, most kids are always like 'I wanna go to Duke' or 'I wanna go to Carolina,' but I wasn't like that. I never had a school I really wanted to go to. So during the recruiting process everything was fair game and when some of my friends went to Carolina and Duke, I wanted to beat Carolina and I wanted to beat Duke. You know, I played with them already, so let's compete! That's how I always

"[The] sophomores and the juniors are a bigger part of the team because they are our role models and our leaders on the team..."

### **Jill Ingram**Freshman point guard

thought," Ingram said.

Going to the second round to face a hungry Carolina squad is an opportunity to grab some bragging rights for Ingram against her high school rivals.

Chante Black from Duke, Ivory Latta and Camille Little from UNC, and Keisha Brown from N.C. State were all teammates of Ingram while she played for Team North Carolina for two years. She also played against UNC's Leah Metcalf for two years in high school as Leah played for a local rival.

Just a freshman, Ingram explained the differences between playing point guard in high school versus playing the point guard spot at the college level.

"Of course it's going to be really hard because I had to learn the system and buy into the system and then tell everybody where they need to go and run the team on the court and be the coach on the floor, and that's always hard for a freshman to do...Coming out of high school you didn't need to be the verbal leader, you could just lead by example, but now you have to be both the vocal leader and the leader by example. That was probably the biggest challenge for me," Ingram said.

The 5'9" guard sees herself surrounded by the game later in life. "I always wanted to be a coach. My layout is that I want to start out as a recruiter and going around and travel and watch basketball and learn the ropes and network and then hopefully land a head coaching job afterward," Ingram said.

Ingram's teammate Mitchell has proven versatile as a scoring and rebounding threat ever since entering the starting lineup because of a Kasha Terry injury.

Mitchell, Ingram and classmate Chioma Nnamaka are three freshman players who have had to step up and perform as members of the starting lineup.

Mitchell said that the biggest surprise is "how the team has responded to how many young players we have in key positions and how everybody has just embraced all the young players. Also, how we're positive about it and not negative and how we're able to deal with things I would not have expected to deal with so well."

Mitchell's rise to the starting lineup is not the end of her seemingly endless ceiling of potential.

"She definitely has some goals set for herself and she's determined. I was talking to my dad about it and he always likes to talk about the game, and he's like, 'That Janie Mitchell... she's gonna be something!' He's always saying that people might not



Women's basketball is seeded No. 8 in the ACC tournament and faces No. 9 seed Miami today. The winner will face top-seeded UNC.

realize it now, but she's a good player," Ingram said of Mitchell.

Although one could argue that the 2004-2005 season has been the year of the freshmen for women's basketball at Tech, both Ingram and Mitchell credit their elders for helping them through the growing pains.

"It's the year of the freshmen for obvious reasons because we started three freshmen towards the end of the season," Ingram said. "Like Janie said, the sophomores and the juniors are a bigger part of the team because they are our role models and our leaders on the team, and we follow them because [of what] they know through experience."

The Jackets, led by their fabulous freshmen, take on Miami today at 11 a.m. at the Greensboro Coliseum in the first round of the ACC Tournament.

The game will be televised on Fox Sports Net and will also be broadcast on WREK Radio. The winner of the game will face top-seeded North Carolina, who has a first-round bye in the tournament.



The golf team won the Puerto Rico Classic. It was the team's first tournament win since the 2002 NCAA East Regional tournament.

## Golf wins in Hawaii

By Michael Clarke Senior Staff Writer

The No. 3 Jackets won the Puerto Rico Classic last Tuesday by shooting 845 (-19) as a team after a final round of 287 (-1).

It is their first tournament win this season. Florida finished in second place, four strokes behind Tech. No. 1 ranked Oklahoma State was five strokes over Tech's score.

Chan Song shot a final round 71 to finish tied for fourth place with a 210. Teammate Nicholas Thompson shot a 70 to end the tournament in a tie for sixth with a 211 total. Both golfers shot under par in each

"I'm happy for our players," said Head Coach Bruce Heppler. "They've worked very hard and they do what we've asked them to do, and we're seeing some results. They've been around the lead the whole year, and it's nice for them to feel some satisfaction. Winning just reaffirms what they do every day."

At the end of the first day the Jackets were in third place, two shots behind No.2 Georgia. The Jackets were led by Song, who shot a 68.

Roberto Castro led the Jackets on the second day shooting a 67. Michael Barbosa came in with a solid 69, and Thompson and Song each shot a 71.

At the end of the second day Tech moved up to first place and had a four-shot lead over Florida.

The Jackets will see their next action in Las Vegas at the Southern Highlands Collegiate next weekend.

## **Softball slips at Leadoff Classic**

By Patrick Odneal
Assistant Sports Editor

The softball team's record dropped to 13-4 last weekend as they traveled to Columbus, Ga. for the annual NFCA Leadoff Classic. The Jackets lost four tough games in two days of play at the tournament where 11 of 24 teams were nationally ranked.

The Jackets lost to the No. 8 ranked Michigan Wolverines 4-1 in the first game last Friday. Jessica Sallinger struck out eight of 25 batters and gave up three hits in five innings pitched.

The Wolverines gained all four scores on home runs. In the first inning Michigan's Jessica Merchant hit a solo home run over the left center fence to give the Wolverines a 1-0 lead.

In the third inning with the score tied at one run, Michigan's Samantha Finley hit a three-run shot after the leadoff runner made it to first base off a Jacket error. With two outs and a runner on second, Merchant was intentionally walked before Michigan's Samantha Findlay homered to left center to pick up three RBIs.

Tech's only run of the game came in the second inning. Senior Katie Donovan singled with one out and then advanced to second off a Wolverine error. With two outs first-year Aileen Morales singled to right field to drive in Donovan.

In the second game on Friday the Jackets lost 5-1 to the Salukis from Southern Illinois University. The Jackets gave up four home runs as the Salukis picked up all of their runs off the long ball.

Tech took the early lead in the third inning. Freshman Stephanie Butler reached second base off an error by the Saluki third baseman, who was trying to throw Butler out at first. Morales came to the plate next and picked up the RBI with a

single through the right side.

Back to back Saluki home runs in the fourth inning put them up 3-1 before solo home runs in the fourth and fifth innings gave SIU the 5-1 victory.

On Saturday Tech faced South Carolina and lost 2-0 in a contest that lasted 10 innings. Sallinger threw an impressive complete-game one-hitter striking out 12 of the 28 batters she faced. She moved to No. 16 on the NCAA career strikeout list; she has struck out 1118 batters in her four-year career.

The Gamecocks won the game off a two-run home run by Carolina McKenna. Because of the international tiebreaker rule, a runner was placed on second to start the

inning, so Sallinger gave up only one earned run.

In the second game on Saturday Tech lost 9-1 to No. 17 ranked Nebraska in a five-inning contest. Sophomore Sarah Wood was the starter and made it to the first out in the fourth inning before first-year Whitney Humphreys came in to finish the game.

The softball team returns to action today and tomorrow as they host the annual Buzz Classic. All games will be played in Marietta. Tech faces Winthrop and Purdue today before facing St. Louis University and Mercer tomorrow. The final day of the tournament is Sunday. The pairings will be determined by the results of pool play.



By Jamie Howell / STUDENT PUBLICATION

The softball team started off the season winning 13 straight games, but in a tough tournament last weekend they dropped four games.

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## **SPORTS**

Technique • Friday, March 4, 2005

#### BASEBALL BY THE BAY

Junior outfielder Steven Blackwood talks about his family, selecting Tech and playing in the Cape Cod League. Page 24

#### **ISYE PROF HITS HOME RUN**

Professor George Nemhauser planned logistics for airplanes and shipping ports; now he's routing Major League Baseball. Page 11



## Aqua Jackets finish strong at ACCs

By Lokesh Padhye Contributing Writer

Tech junior Sam Morgan became just the second Yellow Jacket, and the first since Shilo Ayalon set the meet record in 2003, to win the ACC conference title in the 1650yard freestyle when he recorded an NCAA automatic qualifying time of 14:54.71 in the Men's ACC Championships, which concluded last Saturday.

The men's team improved on a fifth-place finish a year ago and finished third for just the second time in school history. A week ago Tech's women achieved a strong sixth-place finish in the Women's ACC Swimming and Diving Cham-

'We are very pleased with our finish at the ACC Championships. Both the men's and women's teams did an excellent job and it looks like we will have two women qualifiers for the NCAA Championships for the first time in school history," said Head Coach Seth Baron.

Sophomore Vesna Stojanovska became the first women's swimmer to win an ACC title with a school record NCAA'B' cut time of 1:59.27 in the 200-yard butterfly.

Stojanovska earned All-ACC honors for two consecutive days. She finished second in the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 1:47.67 prior to her win in the 200-yard butterfly.

Freshman Elizabeth Stowe broke



By Scott Medway / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Stephanie England dives at the Men's and Women's ACC Championships that took place over the past two weeks. The men finished third, while the women earned sixth, the best in their four-year history.

her own school record in the 1650yard freestyle with an NCAA 'B' cut time of 16:28.08 to earn All-ACC honors. "It was a huge drop in time of [Stowe's] personal best and it's the time that should qualify her for the NCAA Championships. It was great to have the first ACC Champion, [Stojanovska], at home. Those two ladies did a remarkable job," Baron said.

Tech's 400-yard freestyle relay team of Natanya Harper, Liz Foster, Moeko Wallis and Stojanovska set a new school record with a time of 3:26.47 to finish in sixth place. The 800-yard freestyle relay team of Stojanovska, Foster, Stowe and Meghan DeVinney broke the school record by five seconds with an NCAA 'B' cut time of 7:24.06 to finish fifth.

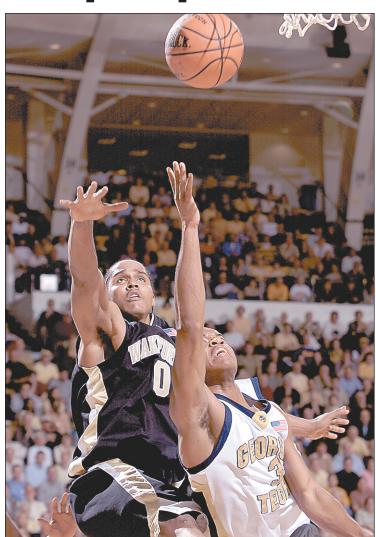
In the Men's ACC Champion-

ships, Morgan won his first ACC title and will compete at the NCAA Championships for the third consecutive season. Another junior, Jason Howard, posted a career best time of 44.57 to notch an NCAA'B' standard in the 100-yard freestyle and finish the race in fifth place.

Though Morgan dominated all

See **ACC**, page 23

## Hoops tops Canes, falls to Wake on road



By Christopher Gooley / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

On Wednesday Tech lost 98-91 at No. 4 Wake Forest. Tech is now 7-8 in ACC play and hosts Clemson tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

By Kyle Thomason Sports Editor

On Saturday Tech rallied from a 59-51 deficit with eight minutes remaining to top Miami 76-72. The win pushed the Jackets' ACC record to 7-7.

Jarrett Jack scored 21 points for Tech in the victory, and Will Bynum nailed seven free throws in the final two minutes to secure the victory.

Tech's freshmen played a large role in the victory. Jeremis Smith played 24 minutes and led the Jackets with eight rebounds. Anthony Morrow hit four three-pointers off of the bench in 18 minutes of play. Ra'Sean Dickey added 12 points in 17 minutes as well.

The Hurricanes were led by 24 points from Guillermo Diaz and 20 points from Robert Hite in the

Riding high after a road victory at the Convocation Center in Coral Gables, the Jackets headed to Winston-Salem, N.C. to take on the No. 4 Wake Forest Demon Deacons on Wednesday night.

The Jackets got off to a hot start with B.J. Elder hitting four of his first five shots from the field and sprinted out to an early lead against the Demon Deacons.

The Jackets led 45-37 at halftime and opened the second half with an Elder three that streteched the lead to 11

Wake Forest stormed back and

took the lead 73-72 with a Chris Paul basket with 7:29 remaining and never looked back.

Wake Forest was strong from the line at the end of the contest to hold off the Jackets and end the game with a 98-91 win.

Demon Deacons forward Vytas Danelius scored 17 points and added 11 rebounds to lead his team to victory in his final home game as a senior. Eric Williams continued to play well against the Jackets and scored 21 points for Wake Forest.

The Demon Deacons finished the year without losing a single game at home. The win avenged Wake Forest's loss to Tech earlier in the year in Atlanta, and it also keeps the Demon Deacons just behind North Carolina in the race for the

Jack led Tech in the loss with 23 points. Elder continued his comeback with 22 points and Luke Schenscher added 18 points and nine rebounds in the losing effort for the Jackets.

The loss puts Tech at 7-8 in ACC play and 16-10 overall. It is critical for Tech to defeat Clemson at home on Saturday to finish league play with a .500 record and feel more at ease with regard to its chances to make the NCAA Tournament.

The game will be played at 1:30 p.m. in Alexander Memorial Coliseum. The ACC Tournament begins March 10 at the MCI Center in Washington D.C.

# sports shorts

### Braves shut out Jackets in Orlando

The Jackets had a rough afternoon in an exhibition contest against the Atlanta Braves on Wednesday. Five Braves pitchers combined on a nohitter against Tech.

The Braves managed to score 12 runs on 19 hits in the victory. Chipper Jones and Raul Mondesi each hit home runs in the win. Ryan Self started the game for the Jackets and pitched a scoreless inning for Tech.

### Men's tennis splits against SEC

Tech's men's tennis team faced Auburn and South Carolina over the past week. On Saturday the Jackets met the Tigers and were defeated 4-3 in a contest that went down to the final match of the day.

The men's squad bounced back against South Carolina on Tuesday, winning all four matches that were played. Due to inclement weather, the coaches of the two teams agreed to end the match when one team had won four points. Jose Muguruza's victory over Tom Ecklund finished off the Gamecocks.

### Women's tennis falls to Vanderbilt

The Jackets lost their second match of the dual-match season to No. 6 Vanderbilt on the home courts of the Commodores on Saturday afternoon. The Jackets were not able to win a single set against their highly-ranked opponent on the afternoon.

The team's next home match is against South Alabama on Sunday at 12 p.m.

### FSU tops women in final seconds

The women's basketball team played their final home game of the season last Sunday, Feb. 27 and lost to Florida State 51-49. The Jackets were leading by three points when FSU's Holly Johnson nailed a threepointer with just under 10 seconds left in the game.

Sophomore Stephanie Higgs led Tech with 14 points and Junior Jessica Williams scored 10 points and also pulled in eight rebounds.

### Hall picks up 700th win

The baseball team beat Georgia Southern 9-1 on Tuesday to give Head Coach Danny Hall 700 career wins. In 18 years of coaching Hall has arecord of 700-330. He has won 492 games in his 12 years at Tech.