

Cycling Club hosts Saturday road race on North Campus

By Derek Haynes
Sports Editor

Just two years ago, the Georgia Tech Cycling Club could only dream of hosting a tournament. Today, the Cycling Club – all 40 members strong – has much loftier goals.

“We have a realistic shot of going to nationals in mountain bike racing,” says Club President Ryan Fisher.

Fisher and the rest of the club, which numbered only six people two years ago, are hosting a road race on campus Saturday and a mountain bike race in Statesboro on October 14.

The road race, called a “Crit Race,” is only half a mile long. Cyclists race around the small track for as long as 45 minutes for experts and as short as 20 minutes for beginners. When the time expires, a bell is rung and three more laps are run.

Fisher explains that a Crit Race is easier to watch.

“Because of the smaller course, spectators can see the cyclists pass by several times instead of just a couple of times,” says Fisher. “It’s much more spectator-friendly.”

The racecourse features three turns, two ninety-degree turns and one 180-degree turn, and a small hill. The race will run on Atlanta Drive, Ferst Street, the parking lot by the College of Computing and the West Wing of the College of Architecture, and Fourth Street.

Registration, which carries a ten-dollar fee, begins at 9 a.m. The C Category, or beginner race, begins at 10 a.m. and lasts 20 minutes plus three laps. The B Category, or sport race, begins after the C race and lasts 30 minutes plus three laps. The A Category, or expert race, lasts 45 minutes plus three laps. The women’s race, a thirty-minute plus three lap race, is tentatively scheduled to follow the three men’s races but could be moved to the 10 a.m. time slot.

The Tech Cycling Club will have plenty of people to fill the different skill classes. While the majority of

the club members are new to cycling, a few have had years of experience. Daniel Talcott, a second-year from Statesboro who won the B category race at the University of Georgia last year, is expected to be one of the top cyclists this year for the Jackets. Jon Baggett, who is sponsored outside of Tech and competed at the U.S. Nationals, will be on the club for the first time this fall. Fisher expects membership to balloon to around 50 members by mid-semester.

“A lot of people are scared when they first hear of the club. They think it’s only for people with experience,” said Fisher.

Baggett and the rest of the club participate in the Southeastern Collegiate Cycling Conference (SECCC). Florida, Florida State, Georgia, Clemson, Georgia State, and Vanderbilt are among the schools in the conference. Standings are kept for individuals and teams in both mountain and road races.

Last season Tech finished in fourth place out of 19 teams in both Mountain and Road Racing. This season they will have to unseat Florida, in both categories. The Gators have won five of the last six road racing titles and are the two-time defending champions of the Mountain Bike Division.

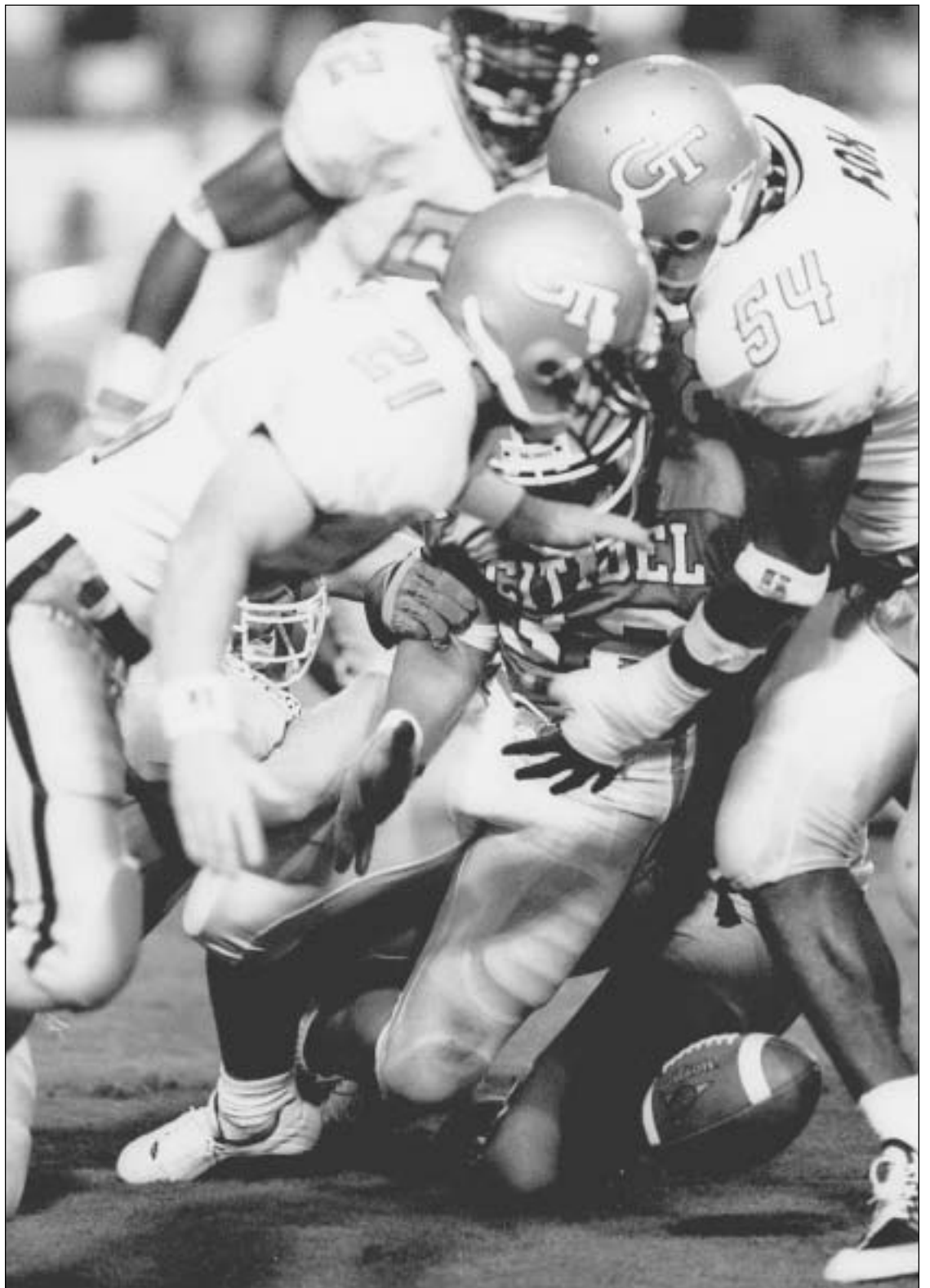
“We’ll race in about eight or nine road and mountain races each,” says Fisher.

While most cycling races cost around 35 dollars to enter, most college cycling races cost around the ten dollars that Tech is charging for the race Saturday. Other than the race entry fees, the only other fee Tech cyclists have to pay is the fifty dollar due fee.

GT Cycling Club File

Website: cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/~cycling
 President: Ryan Fisher
 Members: 40
 History: The team finished fourth in the 2000-01 season in the SECCC in both Mountain Bike and Road Racing.

Feature Photo: Citadel at Tech Georgia Tech 35, Citadel 7



By Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Free Safety Marty O’Leary, son of Jackets Head Coach George O’Leary, and Linebacker Keyaron Fox chase after a Citadel fumble. O’Leary, third on his father’s depth chart, missed all of the 2000 season with a torn ACL.

Beyond the White and Gold

If I was Tech's Sports Dictator-for-Life

By Derek Haynes
Sports Editor

Late Tuesday evening, otherwise known as the night after "FSU Ticket Mayhem 2001," I was thinking about how a lot of things would change if I was dictator-for-life of Tech sports. Below I have outlined my points. I will call them the 14 points. If this new position comes to light, be sure that my points will guide Tech sports into a new direction. I will bridge the gap to the twenty-first century.

1. Buzzcards are no longer needed for entry at football and basketball events.

I have dreamed about this ever since the day I set foot on the urban campus that is Georgia Tech. Does Tech comprehend the economic boom this would provide students? Say Tech goes undefeated until the Georgia game—how much would tickets cost? I could make quite a business selling student tickets. Of course it would be illegal.

2. Install FieldTurf on the SAC fields and the Burger Bowl.

FieldTurf is to artificial turf as Tech's football team is to Citadel's gridders. FieldTurf looks, plays, and can even smell like grass (some soccer teams in Europe that play on the surface spray it to make it smell like the natural stuff). Now tackle football leagues can start.

3. An elimination game to award tickets to students.

I will divide each 12-man group into something I call a clan. Each clan will participate in tests of skill. At the end of every hour, one member of the clan will be voted off Techwood Drive. Honestly, I feel this is my most original idea.

4. An annual on-campus golf tournament.

Could golf get any more exciting? Teeing off Tech Tower with its majestic views of downtown Atlanta. Avoiding the water hazard in the Campanile. Watching my ball roll down the hill. It might not be Augusta and Bobby Jones might not be proud, but I know off in the distance I can see a smiling Happy Gilmore.

5. A dictator declaration: Ultimate Frisbee is not a sport.

That always gets people riled up.

6. Hold the championship flag football games in Bobby Dodd Stadium. Make it a daylong festival. It would be a heck of a thrill to play on the field we surround on Saturdays.

7. Allow one walk-on a year to get in a couple of plays. He has to be the smallest one too.

There is nothing greater in sports than watching the little guys play on a field with the big guys.

8. Let a random person kick extra points.

How hard can it be? Our guy hasn't missed in his career. I want to see a challenge.

9. Make the coaches teach a class.

At Ohio State they do it, at Michigan State they do it, and at plenty of other high-powered sports schools

they do it. I can imagine it. For a test, students play a NCAA College Football 2002 game for Playstation 2 against the computer. Bad play execution? Minus five points. Bad game plan? O'Leary will have your head.

10. Build a Go-Kart track.

I think I'll wreck Hightower for this one and put the track in the middle of campus. There will be an intramural league where teams of drivers compete against each other in the Georgia Tech Racing Series. A Three Dollar Café Restaurant will overlook the track.

11. The Mini-500 race will just be a straight shot down "The Hill."

Whoever makes it to the bottom with all their limbs will definitely be a real winner. The profits from the Go-Kart track will be used to start a replacement limb fund for the racers.

12. The winners of the flag football and basketball intramural teams play a team of Tech athletes.

Who wouldn't love the chance to see how they match up with Tony Akins on the court and Greg Gathers on Grant Field? Early reports indicate that flag football would be the most winnable—notice the word "flag" in front of football.

13. Make Yellow-Out a reality.

I heard talk of it before, but it will become a reality. Everybody in Bobby Dodd will wear a yellow shirt for the Georgia game. Jacket fans will be dressed as one.

14. Require ticket vouchers when purchasing tickets.

Sounds like a good start to me.

Beat Editor-In-Chief Matthew Bryan in the Football Forecast...

...and next week your name goes here.

This week's games:

**South Carolina vs. Georgia
Fresno State vs. Wisconsin
Michigan vs. Washington
Notre Dame vs. Nebraska
North Carolina vs. Texas
Tennessee vs. Arkansas
Duke vs. Rice
Indiana vs. N.C. State
Mississippi vs. Auburn
Georgia Tech vs. Navy**

Last week's winner:

Ricardo Villalaz
Ricardo picked every game correct, and predicted Tech to win 28-7 over the Citadel. Looks like Matt has met his match...

<http://www.nique.net/footballforecast>

Georgia Tech vs. The Citadel Report Card

Subject	Grade	Comments
Coaches	B+	<i>Has respect for, does not abuse the smaller children.</i> O'Leary could have run up the score on a susceptible defense for the sake of satisfying the BCS polls or to match the spread.
Quarterbacks	B	<i>Quickly developing his in-class skills. Room for improvement.</i> Godsey seems to have regained his touch on his passes and looks more comfortable in the pocket. He completed 14 of 16 passes for 222 yards and 2 touchdowns.
Wide Receivers	B+	<i>Most improved and overachieving students.</i> With Kelly Campbell and Will Glover on the sidelines recovering from minor injuries, Jonathan Smith, Levon Thomas and Kerry Watkins put up good numbers.
Back Field	C+	<i>Good initial work, but loses focus over time.</i> The game against Citadel featured the backs that will be able to keep Joe Burns rested. Failing to shine against a weak defense, averaging only 3 yards a carry. Burns improved over last week's 5 yards per carry.
Offensive Line	B	<i>New students fit in well with the rest of the class.</i> While still having room to improve, Jason Kemble and Hugh Reilly showed that they could replace Chris Brown and Brent Key, respectively. They still need to work on their blocking assignments on running plays.
Defensive Line	B-	<i>The class bully turns against friends and enemies.</i> Quite possibly one of the best lines in the nation played well against the Cadets. Honor Roll performance will not be reachable unless the off-side penalties are drastically reduced.
Linebackers	B+	<i>Prevents others from working productively.</i> Held the Cadets to 212 total yards while forcing three fumbles and three sacks. They always seemed to be in the backfield or preventing screenplays from being developed.
Secondary	B-	<i>Wide coverage of topics but becomes frustrated by harder assignments.</i> The secondary held strong against the Cadets passing attack holding them to only 132 passing yards. However, backups seemed overmatched in the 4th quarter.
Special Teams	A-	<i>Potential to excel but is held back by simple mistakes.</i> Luke Manget broke the ACC record for consecutive extra point tries made while Kelley Rhino continued to bounce like a pinball off of defenders. However, the special teams must reduce holding penalties.

Navy Preview

from page 44



By Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Sophomore wideout Jonathon Smith is tackled by Citadel cornerback Kevin Gause during one of his game-high 7 catches. Smith, who gained a total of 108 receiving yards, helped pace a solid Tech passing attack.

coach Weatherbie stills feels that "you will see a big improvement in the secondary this year." Senior DeJuan Cromer will lead the young secondary. This unit should improve drastically as the season continues. Tech continued its theme of improvement in the form of speed. Transfer from Notre Dame, Albert Poree, will greatly help a corps that previously was the weakness to Tech's defense. Tech finally has corners that come close to reaching the six-foot mark, eliminating an automatic advantage for opposing receivers.
Edge:



SPECIAL TEAMS

The Mids' special teams is yet another position that is going under the knife this year, with newcomers challenging former starters for their positions. Each week will be a game time decision as to who will start their respective positions. If anything good comes from this it would be that those who are challenge improve their game in order to maintain their spots on the starting roster. The Yellow Jackets have one of the best place-kickers in the nation in Luke Manget. This past week he surpassed the ACC record of 93

consecutive PAT's. He has made every point after try of his college career. Punt returner Kelley Rhino continues to amaze fans with his consistent play. No matter the situation he always manages to make the first couple defenders miss.

Edge:

PREDICTION

With all the questions remaining on the Midshipmen's team one wonders how they won that single game last year. With their star quarterback returning, they should be able to scrap together a couple wins this season. However this will not be the case against Tech, who will extend the Mids ranked-team losing streak to 31. The option will not be effective against the fast defense of the Yellow Jackets. Tech knows a loss here simply can not happen. Look for the Tech running to begin to start churning yards against the Mids. Navy will put points on the board, but not until Tech's first defensive unit is out.

Final Score: Tech 38, Navy 10

Junior Placekicker doesn't just send footballs though the Atlanta sky

By Joseph Jeong
Staff Writer

You're a prep All-American pick by several magazines. You garner honors for being the best at your position in not only your state but the whole region. You are scouted by football powers like Ohio State and Clemson. Yet, your future is uncertain with no firm scholarship offer from any Div-1A schools. Clemson offered but withdrew their offer once their new coach, Tommy Bowden, took over.

You are Luke Manget.

All that changed when Georgia Tech came knocking on the door in Manget's senior year. Despite a hamstring injury that limited his playing time, Tech was impressed enough to offer Manget a football scholarship.

The rest of Manget's story is like something out of a Hollywood screenplay. Despite the accolades coming out of high school, he's not expected to be the starter. Yet he performs so well in preseason camp that he gets the job. He goes on to break Tech's single season record for points (86 points) formerly held by the placekicker of Tech's 1990 national championship team, Scott Sisson. However to most Tech fans, it will be his dramatic game winning field goals against UNC and UGA that will be remembered from his most memorable freshman campaign.

Although his sophomore campaign was less dramatic, it was equally impressive. He was named First

Team All-ACC placekicker and was a semifinalist for the Lou Groza Award. He was third overall in the league in scoring with 7.4 ppg and first amongst kickers. His mammoth kickoffs carried Tech to a ACC-low of 16.4 yards per opponent return. He also kicked his career longest field goal, a 50-yarder against NC State. The junior from Conyers was named Tech's Outstanding Special Teams Performer in 2000. Perhaps most importantly, he kept his perfect extra point made streak intact.

This season, he continues his stellar performance as he just broke Maryland's Jess Atkinson's ACC record of 93 consecutive extra points made by kicking 5 against The Citadel and putting him in first with 97 and counting. Manget also hit two field goals and an extra point against Syracuse.

"It's a good record because not only does it show that you can kick consistently, it [also] shows that you have a good holder, a good snapper and that your team scores a lot. You've got to score a lot to get point after attempts," Manget says.

Manget, who missed an extra point attempt against Syracuse only to get a second chance when an Orangeman penalty was called, is glad the record fell early-on in the season.

"It's good to get it out of the way so I can concentrate on the rest of the season," added Manget.

With almost two full seasons ahead of him, it would be unwise to bet against him breaking more records as he continues his stellar career at The Flats.

Luke Manget File

Name: Thomas Luke Manget

Class/Major: Junior/History, Technology and Science

Height: 5' 9"

Weight: 176 lbs

High School: Rockdale County

Hometown: Conyers, GA

Position: Place Kicker

If you must know one thing: He now holds the ACC Record for consecutive Point-After-Kicks with 97. He has yet to miss one in his college career. Luke has played guitar for eight years. His favorite music to play: classic rock and country.

Luke is currently working on his Private Pilot License through the Yellow Jacket Flying Club. He will be continuing a proud family tradition of flying. His grandfather was a Navy pilot and his great-uncle was a geologist who flew for his job.

His nicknames include rather unimaginative mispronunciation of his last name like "Maggot", "Magnet", and "Mangy".

Luke likes the seams pointing away when he kicks.

Luke prefers Coca-Cola over Pepsi.

Luke finds Kenny Mayne's dry wit and catchphrases more entertaining than Dan Patrick's philosophical sports musings.

Luke fancies Holtz's Gamecocks over Richt's Bulldogs in this weekend's matchup.

Luke thinks Michael Vick is ready to take over Chris Chandler's job as the Atlanta Falcon's QB.

He'll take Kelly Campbell over Nate Curry in a footrace.

He thinks Hobbes was the one carrying the comic strip all these years while Calvin was hogging all the glory.



By Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Luke Manget boots his 94th consecutive PAT, an ACC record, on Saturday against the Citadel. Manget, who connected on five PATs in the win, broke Jess Atkinson of Maryland's record of 93 consecutive PATs.

So here we go. Matt said that we're not supposed to beg for writers. So I'm not going to. Instead, I will just inform you of the meeting time if you're ever interested. Tuesdays at 7.00 pm. In room 137 of the Student Services Building.

game II upclose: No. 10 Georgia Tech 35, Citadel 7

Youngsters grab spotlight against air-raided Citadel Bulldogs

By Robert Cunningham
Staff Writer

The uniforms may have been the same, but the Yellow Jackets that slaughtered The Citadel this past Saturday could not have looked more different than the Yellow Jackets that escaped a narrow victory against Syracuse just one week ago.

The same Tech offense that got bogged down in the trenches against Syracuse commenced an air raid on The Citadel's defense. Tech approached The Citadel much more aggressively, resulting in a 35-7 victory.

The more aggressive approach was evident from the first play, when quarterback George Godsey hit tight-end John Paul Foshci with a 31-yard pass, sending Tech across midfield on the first play of the game.

The air assault continued as Tech rushed for only 10 yards during the 5-play, 72-yard touchdown drive. Godsey completed 9 passes on 9 attempts in the first quarter, and completed 11 consecutive passes before missing freshman receiver Levon Thomas in the second quarter. Godsey left the game 14 for 16, giving him an 87.5 pass completion percentage.

While the offense was the most improved part of Tech's game, the defense continued the domination that began against Syracuse. Only twice through the first 3 quarters of play was The Citadel able to move the ball across the 50-yard line and into Tech territory. The first quarter stats were almost unreal, as Tech held the Citadel running game to—12 yards.

One of the most pleasant surprises of the game was the play of Kelley Rhino. Rhino accounted for 119 yards in the game, on 9 punt returns and 2 kickoff returns. His ability to shake defenders amazed the crowd, and resulted in an 8.2-

yard average on punt returns. He consistently gave the Jackets good field position, helping power their high-octane offense.

Last week, Tech rode star receiver Kelly Campbell and runningback Joe Burns to victory. This week the two players were barely involved, Burns having only five carries for 27-yards and Campbell not entering the game at all due to a minor ankle injury.

The offense instead depended upon young, inexperienced players such as receiver Levon Thomas, receiver Jonathan Smith, and runningback Jimmy Dixon. Head coach George O'Leary was pleased with their effort.

"We got a chance to play young kids, which is really what I wanted to get done in this game," said O'Leary.

While many of the young players had limited to no experience in game situations, they were able to gain a lot of experience and provide more options for the Tech offense.

Although Tech's running game still needs some improvement, the depth is impressive. Four different players ran the ball for Tech, all gaining at least 26-yards. Freshman Jimmy Dixon was the Jackets leading rusher, gaining 30-yards on the day.

The low point in the game for Tech was the number of penalties called against the Jackets. The Jackets were responsible for 11 penalties, adding up to over 100 yards. O'Leary summed it up by saying, "The result was a good win, but there were way too many penalties."

Although Tech did not cover the 41-3 spread, they proved themselves more than worthy of a No. 10 ranking. Considering the second half was played without Heisman candidate Godsey, star receiver Campbell, or workhorse Burns, the final score is impressive.



By Scott Meulners / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Levon Thomas goes for a grab in the second half of Tech's victory over Citadel. Thomas, a true freshman from College Park, caught three balls for 66 yards in the contest, including a 50-yard grab late in the third quarter.

Citadel Game File - A Look at the new faces

The romp of Citadel allowed several Tech youngsters to get a chance to march on the Grant Field turf. Here's a look at how some of the underclassmen did:

QB andy hall, so.

STATS: 8-18 for 129 yards and 2 interceptions.

INSIDE SCOOP:

Scampered around like the inexperienced player he is, but has the raw physical tools.

WR jonathan smith, so.

STATS: 7 catches for 108 yards and a touchdown.

INSIDE SCOOP:

Has speed and hands, evident in his 40-yard TD catch where he outran the Citadel.

WR levon thomas, fr.

STATS: 3 catches for 66 yards.

INSIDE SCOOP:

Looked very raw as a wide receiver, but his combination of size and speed is unparalleled on Tech's wideout depth chart.



OFFENSE

35 Joe Burns
2 Sidney Ford
32 Sean Gregory

TB

66 Raymond Roberts-Blake
74 Leon Robinson

LG

61 David Schmidgall
71 Beau Cleland

QB

C

11 George Godsey
13 Andy Hall
8 Damaris Bilbo

FB

45 Ross Mitchell
10 Brian Camp
37 Jonathon Jackson

67 Hugh Reilly
62 Clay Hartley

RG

79 John Bennett
77 Kyle Wallace

RT

80 Russell Matvay
89 John Paul Foschi
84 Will Heller

TE

6 Kelly Campbell
3 Will Glover
7 Levon Thomas

WR

9 Kerry Watkins
82 Jonathon Smith

WR

17 Marcus Jackson
33 Clyde Clark

CB

96 Pete Beuttenmuller
95 Ralph Henry

DE

56 Ryan Hamilton
49 Mike Chiesl

LB

54 Josh Brindel
99 Joey Owenby

DT

44 Lenter Thomas
7 DeJuan Cromer

FS

92 Matt Berger
97 Andy Zetts

DT

1 Jake Bowen
50 Ben Matthews

LB

47 Dan Person
93 Eric Serverson

DE

9 Matt Brooks
13 Joey Fey

SS

56 Eddie Carthan
51 Dan Ryno

LB

16 Shallmar Brazier
36 David Bush


CB



DEFENSE

SPECIAL TEAMS

P	30	Dan Dylke
	20	Chris Morehouse
PK	87	Luke Manget
	40	Dan Burnett
SN	53	Alex Tetterton
HO	10	Brian Camp
	17	Hal Higgins
PR	41	Kelley Rhino
	82	Jonathon Smith
KR	6	Kelly Campbell
	35	Joe Burns



OFFENSE

3 **Dominic Bailey** **WR**
2 **Marshaun Mirter**

77 **David Walsh** **LT**
65 **Derek Jaskowski**

78 **Grant Moody** **LG**
71 **Matt Nye**

75 **Brian Schulz** **C**
67 **Shane Todd**

11 **Craig Candeto** **QB**
10 **Ed Malnowski**

32 **Raheem Lambert** **FB**
23 **Melvin Terrell**


5 **Gene Reese** **TB**
21 **Tippy Lane**

61 **Travis Peace** **RG**
72 **Brent Cochrane**

64 **John Jeffery** **RT**
68 **Dan Vernato**

87 **Steve Mercer** **TE**
89 **Jim Zakar**

40 **Jeff Gaddy** **WR**
84 **Mike McDravy**



DEFENSE

29 **Marvious Hester** **CB**
23 **Jonathon Cox**

55 **Greg Gathers** **DE**
50 **Hobie Holiday**

42 **Ricardo Wimbus** **LB**
31 **Sterling Green**

96 **Gary Johnson** **DT**
92 **Alfred Malone**

98 **Merrix Watson** **DT**
90 **Casey Loesch**

51 **Daryl Smith** **LB**
59 **Matthew Etheridge**

38 **Nick Rogers** **DE**
58 **Fred Wright**

43 **Ather Brown** **LB**
54 **Keyaron Fox**

27 **Jeremy Muires** **FS**
22 **James Butler**
24 **Tony Hollings**

33 **Chris Young** **SS**
4 **Cory Collins**

1 **Albert Poree** **CB**
25 **Dennis Davis**

SPECIAL TEAMS

P 82 **Jon Slaggs**
80 **Eric Rolfs**

PK 4 **David Hills**
80 **Eric Rolfs**

SN 10 **Ed Malnowski**
11 **Craig Candeto**

HO 86 **Heath Sanders**
47 **Dan Person**

PR 5 **Gene Reese**
84 **Mike McDravy**

KR 16 **Shalmar Brazier**
23 **Marlon Terrell**

By Derick Stanger / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Tech faces another military school Saturday—and will be another heavy favorite. Kelly Campbell, who sat out the Citadel game with a minor ankle injury, along with Will Glover (calf), and cornerback Marvious Hester (hamstring) were given the green light by Coach O’Leary to play in this weekend’s Navy game. The matchup with No. 10 Georgia Tech will take place Annapolis, Md. on Saturday at 12 noon. Navy is ranked 0-1 after losing 45-26 in their contest with Temple, their matchup with Tech will mark the third meeting in three years.

SPORTS

Technique • Friday, September 7, 2001

Outpick our Editor-In-Chief

Last week's Football Forecast winner demolished Editor Matthew Bryan. In fact, the winner was almost perfect. Page 38

Look out for racing cyclists

The Cycling Club — now boasting close to 40 members — is hosting a road race tomorrow on North Campus. Page 36

by the numbers

45

Number of minutes it took to sell-out student tickets for the Georgia Tech - Florida State football game.

5:31

Amount of time the Tech gridders needed against Citadel to eclipse their 13-point game total last week against Syracuse.

2

Number of Team USA Fast-Pitch softball games that new softball assistant coach Ehren Earleywine has been on (1998 and 1999 teams).

7

Number of medals won - including six gold medals - by Georgia Tech Swimming and Diving Coach Seth Baron at the 1985 Maccabiah Games.

jacket of the week

george godsey



Completed 14-16 passes for 222 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Godsey completed his first 11 passes against the overmatched Citadel Bull Dogs in Tech's 35-7 victory.

on deck

Event	Date
VB GT CLASSIC VS. CSU	7
CC at UT-Chattanooga	7
FB at Navy	8
VB GT CLASSIC vs. GTOWN	8
VB GT CLASSIC vs. LSU	9
VB at GSU Tournament vs. GSU	12
VB at GSU Tournament vs. UT-C	12

CC - Cross Country FB - Football VB - Volleyball

game III - tech at navy - saturday - 12 p.m. - WQXI-AM (790) - FSNS

Tech wages war on Midshipmen

Last week Tech used an aerial attack in a dominating performance against the Citadel. This week Tech needs to prove they can wage a ground war before heading down to FSU.

By Derick Stranger
Assistant Sports Editor

This Saturday, September 8, #10 Georgia Tech will be playing Navy at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis, Maryland. The game will be televised on Fox Sports Net South and broadcasted via WQXI (790 AM). These two teams have met 21 times with Tech winning 15 of those meetings. Over the last two years Tech has won by a combined score of 89 to 27. Last year Navy finished the regular season with an overall record of 1-11. Their one win came at the end of the season. In Navy's first game of this season they lost to Temple 26 to 45, ending their one game-winning streak from last year. They midshipmen come into this week's game with a thirty game losing streak to ranked teams.

COACHES

After a disappointing 2000 Navy season it was expected that there would be a remodeling of the front office. With the exception of head coach Charlie Weatherbie, the other main positions have been changed. Defensive Coordinator Rick Lantz returned to Navy after a coaching stint at Virginia. Offensive Coordinator Mark Hudspeth will use his skills that he gained from coaching the high-powered offense of Delta State, the Division II-A National Champions. On the Tech side Coach O'Leary will be guiding Tech through what he hopes to be another successful season. The only detriment to Tech's success will be the departure of offensive mastermind Ralph Friedgan who left to coach at Mary-land.

While Coach O'Brien will try to replace Friedgan, there will be a noticeable difference in the play calling. It will be hard for O'Brien to make up Friedgan's 31 years of experience.

Edge:



QUARTERBACK

With senior Brian Madden serving the final game of his two-game suspension against Tech for allegedly trying to steal a parking meter, the reigns of Navy's new offense are in the hands of sophomore Craig Candeto and senior Ed Malinowski.

Candeto struggled last week in the loss to Temple, throwing for only 106 yards in a 4-15 passing performance. Malinowski played solid in the game, completing 9-15 for 86 yards. For Tech, George Godsey returned from a torn ACL two weeks ago and looked shaky against a fairly strong Syracuse defense. Last week was a different story against The Citadel. Godsey completed 14-16 passes for 222 yards and a pair of touchdown passes. If Godsey performs on his game, he is a Heisman candidate.

Edge:



BACKFIELD

This may be Navy's weakest part of their team. While they return the majority of their starters and backups they still lack a player that can score from the backfield. The midshipmen's featured back did not score a single rushing touchdown last year.

However, the quarterback is usually the featured rusher in Navy's offense. Tech will be running by committee this year, similar to last year. Joe Burns is the featured back, but backups Sean Gregory and Sidney Ford will give Burns any rest he may need while still allowing for a potent ground attack. As of this point in the season, Joe Burns is the only back that is running impressively,



however Gregory and Ford should step up to fill the needs of the team when they are needed.

Edge:



WIDE RECEIVER

The Mids will be featuring four or five receivers on the field at once to spread the field and allow an easier passage for the running game. Also they will be playing a more important role in Coach Hudspeth's new offense. This will simply expose the Mids lack of depth and talent at this position. Their top returning receiver gained a total of 193 yards throughout the season and scored only one touchdown. Meanwhile, in their most recent game Tech displayed how much depth they have at this position. With Kelley Campbell and Will Glover sitting out with minor injuries, Levon Thomas and Jonathon Smith performed well against the Cadets and will be receiving more playing time because of it. Kelley Campbell will most likely be returning this week in what may become simply a practice game for the following weeks game against FSU.

Edge:



OFFENSIVE LINE

Last year the midshipmen had a decent offensive line. However all five starters left. In their place will be inexperienced men who will all be vying for playing time. Averaging 275 pounds, the offensive line is large and shows promise. Unfortunately they will not be to pull together and work together until later this season at the earliest. The Tech offensive line is also being faced with replacing two key members of their offensive line from last year. However David Schmidgall, center, will anchor the line and will be able to help Hugh Reilly and Jason Kemble in their new positions.

Edge:



DEFENSIVE LINE

The Mids will also have to worry about how their Defensive line will play. Michael Wagoner, DE, is the only member to have started all 11 of last season's games. He led all linemen in tackles and in tackles for a loss. While inexperienced this line could improve from last seasons if the new starters live up to their potential. Tech has one of the best defensive lines in the nation. Probable All-ACC DE's Greg Gathers and Nick Rogers create an impressive pass rush while tackles Merrix Watson and Gary Johnson anchor the run defense. Every team that plays Tech will have problems with this front four.

Edge:



LINEBACKERS

Navy will be playing a 4-3 defense, same as Tech, and have all three starting backs returning. Along with their starters they have two backups who could be placed in the lineup and perform just as well as starters Jake Bowen and Eddie Carthan. These backups will keep the linebacking unit fresh on the field so that late in the game they will not miss tackles or their assignments. Tech also returns their defensive starters. Wimbush, Smith and Brown will anchor the midfield. Sterling Green moved from Safety to backup linebacker to improve the speed of the linebacking corps. Speed has been the main theme of this year.

Edge:



SECONDARY

Even though the Mids lost their sole All-East player in Chris Lepore

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