

Track and field teams earn wins at Gator meet

By Kimberly Rieck
Sports Editor

At last weekend's Gator Invitational, sophomore All-American Chaunte Howard led Tech's men's and women's track and field teams with a first-place finish and NCAA automatic qualifying mark in the high jump. Howard's top 10 finish was one of many for the No. 23 Jackets.

Before the meet, head coach Grover Hinsdale said, "The Gator Invitational has always been an excellent competition and it's a very good facility. We look forward to this trip each year as we continue our preparations for the ACC Championships on Feb. 20-21."

Freshman Ashlee Kidd and senior Amandi Rhett placed in the top 10 for the Jackets. Rhett placed ninth in the 55-meter dash and 200 meters, while Kidd placed third in the 200 meters and ninth in the 400 meters.

Qualifying for the NCAA championships provisionally, senior Michael Massey and junior Shanta Smith posted season-best marks in the high jump and the 400 meters, respectively. Massey placed second in the high jump with a height of 7'1.50". Smith placed first in the triple jump event and eighth in the 400 meters.

Leading Tech in the 800 meters, senior All-American Brendon Mahoney placed second with a NCAA provisional time of 1:50.66 in the

event.

In the mile, junior Neil McDonagh placed second with a season-best time of 4:13.71, while freshman David Herren placed tenth.

In the field events, junior transfer Holt McPherson placed sixth in the long jump with a NCAA provisional jump of 24'11.75". Sophomore I-Perfection Harris finished seventh in the long jump with a career-best jump.

Dominating the 800 meters, four Tech runners placed in the top ten for the event. Freshman Jennifer Sims finished third, while seniors Jennifer Lentz and Barton Christ finished eighth and tenth respectively.

Tech runners racked up top finishes in the 3000 meters as well. Senior Neta Ezer finished sixth in the race. Freshman Kirby Cross and Cristan Duvall placed seventh and tenth in the event, respectively.

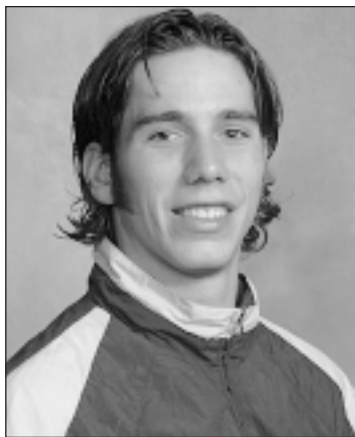
Two-time ACC Indoor Performer of the Week Montrell Person placed tenth in the 200 meters. Junior Dana Rogers finished seventh in the 55-meter dash.

The men's distance medley team, consisting of Crist, Herren, Mahoney and McDonagh placed first in the DMRevent, while the women's team of Mary Chind, Misty Dirksen, Sims and Lentz came in fourth in the medley.

Tech will compete in the Meyo Invitational today and tomorrow in South Bend, Ind.

"Leading Tech in the 800 meters, senior All-American Brendon Mahoney placed second with a NCAA provisional time of 1:50.66 in the event."

faces in the crowd



Paul McCarty
Senior
Diving

Last weekend, Paul McCarty earned the Wendy's Georgia Tech Student Athlete of the Week award after leading the Jackets with three wins against No. 21 Kentucky and Emory University, the latter being on Senior Day. McCarty broke a Tech record on the one-meter board with a score of 335.09. McCarty had a career-high on the three-meter board with a score of 352.95. He has qualified for this year's NCAA Zone B Diving Championships on both the one-meter and three-meter boards.

A Michigan native, McCarty was the 2000 MISCA state diving champion. He holds diving records at three different pools, including his alma mater, Ypsilanti High School. McCarty is majoring in management.



Tasha Waugh
Senior
Softball—Catcher

After splitting duties with All-ACC Catcher Lindsay Wood last year and starting in 37 games last season, senior Tasha Waugh will be starting for the Jackets behind the plate. Last year Waugh hit five home runs and allowed only three passed balls, carrying a .990 fielding percentage. Waugh will also see action as a designated player and first baseman.

An outstanding scholar, the former valedictorian is majoring in psychology at Tech. Waugh led her high school team to the Oklahoma 4A State title in 1999 and was the Tulsa 7 Offensive Player of the Year in 1999. She holds the Oologah-Talala High School record for home runs in a career.



Lindsay Stauss
Freshman
Tennis

One of two freshman on the women's team, Lindsey Stauss helped Tech win against tournament host Minnesota in last weekend's Minnesota Court Classic. Stauss won both of her doubles matches and both of her singles matches without dropping a set in singles play.

A native of Racine, Wisconsin, Stauss was a first team all-county and all-state player in tennis during high school. She is a management major at Tech and comes from a gymnastics background. She has achieved a women's open ranking of 73. Her older brother, Tony, is the quarterback for North Dakota State, and her father was a running back and wide receiver at Wisconsin, earning MVP honors.

technique
meetings...tuesdays
@7...room 137 flag
building...free pizza

Game, set, match



By Jamie Howell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The men's tennis team opened the 2004 season with a sweep of Georgia Southern at the Bill Moore Tennis Center last Saturday.

Softball

from page 32

Earleywine said on ramblinwreck.com.

Tech returns several talented underclassmen to the lineup. Junior Jessica Sallinger will start for the Jackets as pitcher. Sallinger broke school career and single-season records in strikeouts last season and earned All-ACC honors. Voeltz will contribute on the mound as well. She had a perfect game against Southern University during the NCAA Regional Tournament last season. Freshman Sarah Wood will also split time on the mound.

Waugh will be the main catcher this season after starting 37 games and hitting five home runs last season. She only allowed three passed balls last season. Sophomore Lauren Schlechte will split time behind the plate with Waugh on the mound.

On first base, freshman Kristina Hull is projected to start. She was the player of the year at her high school and earned all-county hon-

ors in her native Colorado. Junior Katie Donovan will start on second base after leading the Jackets in last year's post-season play with a .381 batting average. Schlechte will split duties at third base with converted outfielder junior Kirin Kumar. While in the outfield, Wissmann and Reddick will return as starters.

All-American Knudsen will start at shortstop. Knudsen was recently drafted in the 2004 National Pro Fastpitch draft by San Antonio. Knudsen led the ACC in home runs last year.

Although the schedule may be a challenge, the team is eagerly anticipating tomorrow's tournament. "We're looking forward to getting our season underway this weekend," Earleywine said in a press release. "The preseason practices have gone very well and our players are ready to play against someone other than themselves."

The Jackets will play Gardner-Webb and Louisiana-Monroe tomorrow.

Cagers

from page 29

After falling behind 16-4, Tech had rallied to lead 35-33 at the half. Tech's last lead was at 52-51.

In the second half, the Seminoles made 16 straight free throws to take a 73-56 lead and the Jackets went scoreless for over six minutes. Tech only made one of 13 tries from three-point range. The leading scorer for Tech was Muhammad with 14 points, while Jack and Lewis each contributed ten points.

"For our team it's unfortunate, this showing. I thought the toughness in the first half [would help], getting down that early and battling back to have a two point lead going into the locker room," Hewitt said. "I thought we had pretty good control of the basketball game early in the second half, up 48-45, but from that point on Tim Pickett's offense carried them and their defense shut us down. I thought the last ten minutes they just wanted it more than us."

**Submission
Deadline:**

February 15th

Looking for:

Artwork

Poetry

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Tech's Art and Literary Magazine

Cagers stumble against ACC rivals Duke and Seminoles

By Ryan Peck
Senior Staff Writer

Prior to last Saturday's ACC clash with No. 1 Duke, Georgia Tech senior Marvin Lewis said that in order for Tech to have a chance to win, the key would be to match Duke's intensity for a full 40 minutes. The Jackets did just that and then some, but the Blue Devils still escaped with an 82-74 victory before a capacity crowd of 9,191 at Alexander Memorial Coliseum. The win marked Duke's fifteenth consecutive victory over Tech, dating back nearly eight years ago.

The Jackets busted out of the gates like a team possessed, rattling Duke into an early 15-4 deficit. The run was ignited by an Isma'il Muhammad steal and dunk. Six quick points by 7'1" Luke Schenscher and a three by Will Bynum contributed to Tech's fast start.

For the first time in years, Tech students had camped out along Fowler Street the night prior to the game in order to assure themselves tickets to the game. With a couple thousand delirious, sleep-deprived engineers leading the cheers, the Thrillerdome was buzzing with excitement.

Duke was able to reclaim the momentum following a heated exchange. At the 11:06 mark of the first half, and with Tech leading 17-10, an ugly event changed the complexion of the game. Following a Duke turnover, in which Devils' star J.J. Redick fell on the sideline with the ball, a melee ensued. As Tech's B.J. Elder attempted to pry the ball from Redick's hands, his effort was met with resistance from Redick. Shoving resulted amongst both teams, with Tech's Robert Brooks leaving the bench to confront Duke's Daniel Ewing. Technical fouls were assessed to Tech's Elder and Brooks, and Duke's Redick

and Ewing. Per NCAA rules, Brooks was ejected from the game for leaving the bench. An already intense atmosphere became exponentially frenzied, and Duke would prove to be the beneficiary.

The Devils, led by sophomore forward Shelden Williams and freshman sensation Luol Deng, fed off the incident. With Redick relegated to the bench with three early fouls, Duke rattled off 11 consecutive points to regain control of the game. Duke's lead reached as many as six, before settling at five after a Williams layup with 27 seconds left in the half. Deng and Williams combined for 24 of Duke's 37 first half points.

Duke's lead quickly ballooned

"I thought our crowd gave us a really good lift. Our students were great and we had a loud building."

Paul Hewitt
Head coach

to 10 at the start of the second half. Following a Deng dunk and a three by Daniel Ewing, Duke had their biggest lead of the game at 42-32. Tech fans, as in years prior, felt the game slowly slipping away.

Luke Schenscher was the unlikely hero, playing perhaps the best game of his career. The big junior finished with 18 points and eight rebounds. Finishing plays, which had been an ostensible shortcoming of Schenscher's game, was not an issue. He completed two three-point plays, and finished with multiple dunks around the basket. Further-

more, he limited Williams to just one point in the latter half following Williams' superior effort in the first half.

Tech was able to reclaim a 66-64 lead with 6:13 remaining in the game on two free throws from sophomore Jarrett Jack. Jack led the Wreck with 19 points. He also chipped in six rebounds and five assists against his cousin, Chris Duhon.

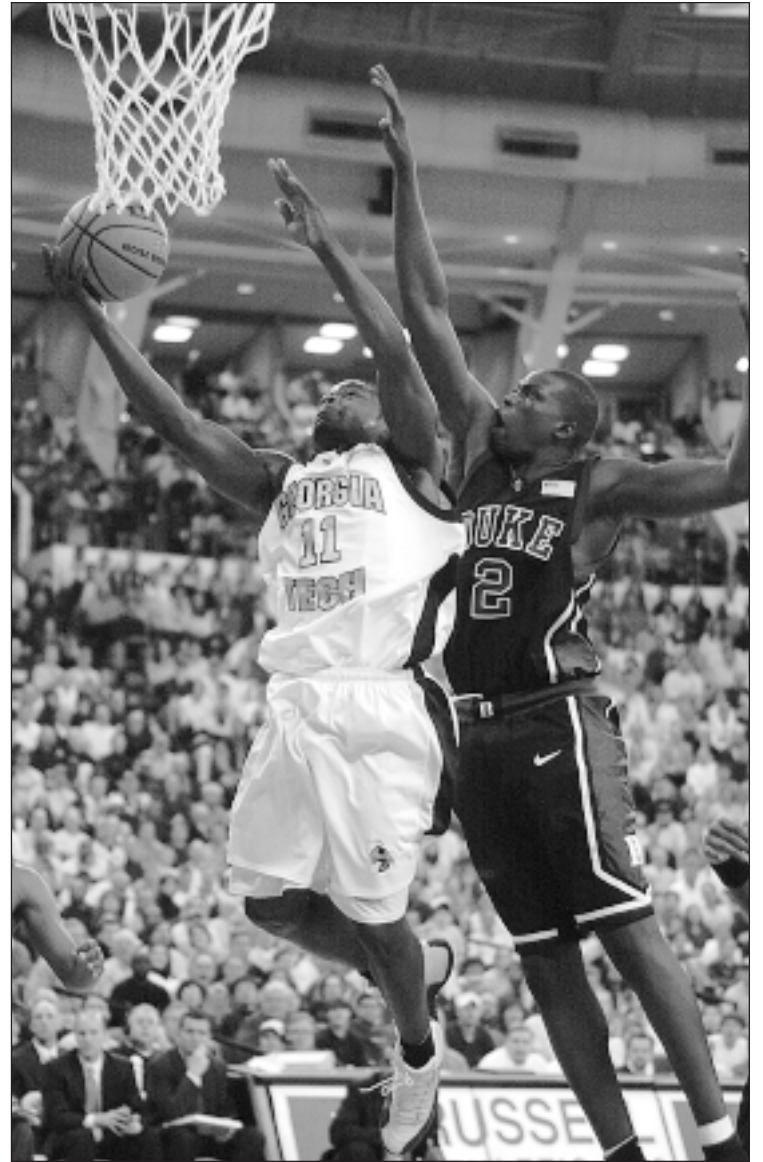
The Jackets, however, would come undone down the stretch. While Redick and Ewing were burying huge threes for the Devils, Tech just could not get anything to fall. The Jackets missed seven shots and one free throw in the final 2:52. Duke salted the game away with clutch shooting from the perimeter as well as the charity stripe.

For the game, the Jackets took eleven more shots than Duke (69-58), but could not cash in the extra looks. Tech hit just 35.9 percent of their second half shots, including 2-11 from three-point land. Will Bynum, following a torrid first half, was 0-for-7 from the field in the game's final 20 minutes. B.J. Elder, coming off a 36-point effort four days earlier against Clemson, was held to seven points on 2-11 shooting. Senior Marvin Lewis chipped in only five points.

"I thought our crowd gave us a really good lift," Tech coach Paul Hewitt said. "Our students were great and we had a loud building. They gave us a really big lift at the beginning of the game. I just wish we could have given them more at the end."

After the Duke game, the Jackets went on to face Florida State in Tallahassee last Tuesday. Florida State had previously defeated two ranked teams at home.

FSU dominated the game with help from FSU's Tim Pickett who scored 25 of his career-high 33 points in the second half. For the third



By Bill Allen / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

At last Saturday's Duke game, Tech's Will Bynum goes in for a layup, while protecting himself against Duke's Luol Deng. The game was a hard-fought battle for both teams, and Tech narrowly lost the matchup 82-74.

straight home game, Florida State's Tim Pickett came on after halftime to lead the Seminoles to a victory over a ranked team. The Seminoles defeated No. 15 Tech 81-65.

Hewitt switched defenders in the

second half in to slow Pickett down, but Pickett still made seven free throws without a miss and was 7-of-8 from the field.

See *Cagers*, page 28



Gailey announces several key coaching changes

By Kimberly Rieck
Sports Editor

Head football coach Chan Gailey has announced several changes to his coaching staff for next season. Gailey has promoted wide receivers coach and passing game coordinator Buddy Geis to assistant head coach. Tech's quarterbacks coach and running game coordinator, Patrick Nix, has been named the new offensive coordinator for next year.

In addition, Gailey has hired Giff Smith and Brian Jean-Mary. Smith will coach the defensive line. Previously, Smith, an Atlanta native, coached Tulane's defensive line and served as the Green Wave's recruiting coordinator. Smith was also a member of three NCAA I-AA national championship teams at Georgia Southern and a three-time all-America defensive end. Smith is a member of GSU's Hall of Fame. Jean-Mary comes to Tech after coaching defensive backs at North Alabama last fall. Jean-Mary played collegiate ball at Appalachian State, where he earned his degree in 1998. "Both are excellent young coaches who came highly recommended," said Gailey in a press release.

Signing

from page 32
man from the Bayou state. Richard is a member of the *Atlanta-Journal Constitution's* Super Southern 100 and played in the US Army High School All-Star Game. Richard did not decide until signing day to play in Atlanta and chose Tech over Miami and Colorado. Brown was also a member of the Super Southern 100.

In addition to the trio of Brown, Robertson and Richard, Tech signed Elris Anyaibe, a 6'3", 275-pound tackle from DeSoto, Texas and 6'6",

225-pound defensive end A.J. Smith, an all-state player from Tampa, Florida. Elris Anyaibe may play either at defensive tackle or on the offensive line, while Smith is Tech's tallest signee.

Each ranks among the top 30 defensive linemen in the nation according to various publications.

"We added two fine football players [Richard and Robertson] today, and we didn't know how it was going to go for either one," Gailey said. "They were choosing among some great schools, so we were fortunate to get two very good players

today."

At quarterback Taylor Bennett of Baldwin, Missouri and Kyle Manley of Buford, Georgia signed with Tech. Bennett came on strong in his senior season while Manley, one of the top 50 players in Georgia according to the *AJC*, started for three seasons and led his team to a state championship this past season. Bennett has already enrolled for spring semester and will practice with the team this spring.

Pennsylvania provided Tech with two running backs in Mike Cox and Justin Guadagni. Both are expected to play fullback or possibly switch over to the defensive side at linebacker if need be. A third running back signed was Drew Gause of Spring, TX.

"When I went on my visit I loved the campus and atmosphere of the school. It really fit me. I also love the education and the things outside of football and the city seems great," Gause said on *Insiders.com*.

Joining Calvin Johnson at wide-out are two players from the Sunshine state, Patrick Clark of Jacksonville, and James Johnson of Winter Garden, Fl. Both are smaller, shifty receivers for which Tech has had success developing over the years. Tech signed one tight end as well. John Morrison from Marietta, Georgia.

The offensive line was one of the Jacket's strengths last season. Four offensive linemen were signed from all over the country in hopes of continuing that success. The first verbal commitment of the 2004 class came from Jacob Lonowski of Elkhorn, NE. Kieren Delaney comes

south from the Northeast as Tech's biggest signee at 6'5", 315 pounds. Closer to home, the Yellow Jackets signed Nathan McManus of Mountain Brook, Alabama and Andrew Gardner of Tyrone, Georgia.

"I've always been a Georgia Tech fan. It's always been a dream of mine to play there," Gardner said to *Insiders.com*.

Tech redshirted many of its signees from a year ago along the

"They were choosing among some great schools, so we were fortunate to get two very good players today."

Chan Gailey
Head coach

offensive line and will probably do the same with this class of rising freshmen.

The top three linebackers from last season are gone and holes must be filled. Along with Chambers, Tech signed Gary Guyton from Hinesville, Georgia to a scholarship. Guyton gave Tech a verbal commitment after attending football camp this summer. Both Guyton and Chambers were among the top 50 players in Georgia according to the *AJC*.

Tech defensive backs look to be solid with three starters returning, but by not resting on their laurels,

Tech coaches were able to sign three homegrown players. Eric Williams, from Metter, Georgia was a highly touted safety who is built much like current free safety James Butler. D'Jay Jones played for state champion Camden County in Kingsland, Georgia. Jamal Lewis starred at Jonesboro High School while playing cornerback and returning punts. All three were rated as top 50 players in the state of Georgia on the *AJC's* top list.

Kyle Belcher is the Jacket's lone kicker signed this year. Belcher, from Deerfield-Windsor School in Albany, Georgia, will act as either a punter or a kicker, according to Gailey.

This class is regarded as Chan Gailey's best recruiting class since becoming head coach.

"Obviously we think that every guy we signed has a chance to help us and be a good player at some point in the future," Gailey said. "Some are more ready to play than others in the immediate future, and some have higher so-called ratings than others, but we think they all have a chance to help us win a championship."

All of the Jackets' commitments this year have qualified academically.

"We want to make sure we find the strongest academic, great athletes that we can find," Gailey said.

However, recruiting rankings are an inexact science. According to a study done by the Miami Herald, only 14 percent of recruits that were ranked in the Top 50 in their class turned out to be named All-Americans in college.

ramblin' with tara knudsen

by edward tamsberg

This year will mark the beginnings of a new sports arena when the National Pro Fast-Pitch Softball league begins its season. Players from all around the country have been recruited to play, and one of them is currently on Tech's softball roster.

Tara Knudsen is a stand-out player on the Tech softball team with a list of records and career highs. Last year, the All-American led the ACC in home runs and earned All-ACC honors.

When the college season ends this year, she will be heading out to Texas to play for San Antonio in the National Pro Fast-Pitch Softball league. Knudsen has written her own story in Tech's record books.

We sat down with Tara to ask what she thinks about Tech softball this year, as the team begins play tomorrow, and what she thinks about playing in the pros.

Technique: What are your thoughts on the upcoming season?

Tara Knudsen: I think that we have a really good chance of competing. We're a pretty tight-knit group, and I think that has a lot to do with how a team is going to do, the chemistry of a team and if they all get along. You can have the best team in the world, but if they don't get along then I don't think its going to work.

'Nique: Who do you most look forward to playing?

Knudsen: Probably Arizona, just because they are one of the elite programs in the country and...as an athlete you always want to play the best.

'Nique: It's always fun to beat the best.

Knudsen: Yeah, it is.

'Nique: What do you think about

starting your season with a tournament near Mardi Gras in Monroe, LA?

Knudsen: Well, we have been to this tournament before, and we kind of had some bad luck in it my sophomore year, so hopefully it will turn out a little better. We had injuries and it was cold and...Louisiana was a different place.

'Nique: Do you get superstitious when you play softball, like maybe wearing a lucky pair of socks?

Knudsen: I guess I don't really have anything that I wear that's superstitious, but I guess certain routines that I do, like in between each pitch when I am up to bat.

'Nique: What are your thoughts about being in the pros?

Knudsen: I am really excited about it. I am excited that women have the opportunity to play after college now. I'm just really excited about it, just having the opportunity to play.

'Nique: Do you know any of the other players you will be playing with at San Antonio?

Knudsen: On the San Antonio team, I know the pitcher. Venus Taylor, who used to coach softball here, now the assistant coach at Bradley, is the pitcher at San Antonio.

'Nique: What makes you love softball so much to play it day in and day out?

Knudsen: I just have a competitive nature about me and to compete, it just gives me a thrill. I just love the game; I've played it since I was...six years old.

So it has just been part of my entire life.

'Nique: Is there anything, looking back, that you wish you had done differently or not done at all?

Knudsen: Probably my sophomore year when we were in the Regional finals and we had to play Florida



Photo Courtesy of the Georgia Tech Athletic Association

All American Tara Knudsen prepares to hit another home run at one of last year's softball games. Knudsen led the ACC in home runs last season and has been drafted to play for the National Pro Fast-Pitch Softball league.

State. They had to beat us twice to go to the World Series and that is probably a moment that I wish I could have back and replay.

'Nique: So you wish you could have those two games back?

Knudsen: Probably that one game, the first one, because there were opportunities where we could have won the game and it didn't happen.

'Nique: Is there any person in particular who you admire or inspired you to play, maybe another player or family member?

Knudsen: My family has always been really supportive in my athletics—sacrificed their time, money, everything.

'Nique: Is your dad is a big reason

for your competitive nature?

Knudsen: Yeah, probably both my parents. My mom is a real independent person and that kind of made me competitive.

'Nique: Do you ever think that you would want to come back and coach at Tech?

Knudsen: Yeah, I actually do want to get into coaching after college, whether it be right away or if I have to wait a while. I know that I would love to work with Coach Yi, I think that he knows a lot about the game and that I could benefit from that.

'Nique: Anything that you can think of that you don't like or that you would like to see changed about

softball?

Knudsen: Things are getting better; we have the pro league now, and we are getting more recognition, but...softball is that kind of sport that you either like it or you don't, and if you don't, then people aren't going to watch it. But I think that it is growing, it is on the up, more girls are coming out and playing.

'Nique: Alright, this is the cliché question, but anything you want to say to any of the little girls who are maybe out there practicing right now?

Knudsen: Just if you like softball, and it's what you love to do, then go out and try your best and work hard at it.

SPORTS

Technique • Friday, February 6, 2004

Ready, set, go

The No. 23 women's and men's track and field team are racing up a storm. Find out how they fared in the swamp. Page 27.

Next stop: San Antonio

While other seniors are looking for jobs, All-American Tara Knudsen has inked a deal to play in the pros. Check out the shortstop wonder. Page 31.



by the numbers

3,535

Number of points Lauren Reimer tallied in her first-place finish at the Clemson Pentathlon. Reimer was 71 points ahead of Georgia Southern's Kellie Mitchell.

17

Number of appearances Tech's football team will have made on ESPN's Thursday night exposure after playing Virginia Tech at Bobby Dodd Stadium Oct. 28. Tech has played on ESPN's Thursday night games since 1991.

3

Number of matches the women's tennis team won in the doubles category, for a sweep and the team's first dual match win of the season. Tech defeated host Minnesota to win the Minnesota Court Classic.

5

Number of returning seniors on the softball team this season. The Jacket's lineup is led by seniors Tara Knudsen, Soraya Reddick, Erin Voeltz, Tasha Waugh and Sara Wissmann. The team's schedule features three teams that advanced to the College World Series and ten teams that reached the NCAA tournament.

158

Number of points the men's swim team scored to win last weekend's meet over Emory. All three of this year's seniors—Eduardo Oliver, Paul McCarty and Itai Eden—placed first in their respective events.

Atlanta Thrashers number challenge

hint: signing day

11

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

To enter email the Sports Editor at 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 \$10 for a seat in the \$36 section with a student ID. Visit www.atlantathrashers.com for more info on college nights.

Gailey recruits best class yet

By Clark Nelson
Contributing Writer

Tech has signed 23 high school football players from nine different states for next season. Tech signed a total of eleven players from the state of Georgia, while the other twelve players hail from eight different states, including Missouri and Nebraska. The Yellow Jackets were able to fill needs on the offensive and defensive lines by signing eight players for those two areas.

The group includes five defensive linemen, four offensive linemen, two linebackers, three wide receivers, three running backs, two defensive backs, one combination linebacker/safety, one quarterback, one tight end and one kicker.

"Defensive line, wide receiver and offensive line were three areas of emphasis for us, and we think we were able to get some quality players at those three positions," said Chan Gailey, head football coach.

Headlining the class are Calvin Johnson, Darryl Richard, Darrell Robertson and David Brown. Johnson, from nearby Sandy Creek HS, was the top rated receiver in the state of Georgia and one of the best in nation. The recruiting website Insiders.com gave the Tyrone, Georgia native a five-star rating, the highest a player can receive. He chose Tech over Georgia in a heated recruiting battle.

"[The coaches] didn't promise me anything, but they said if I come in and work hard, I will have a chance to start next year. I know I'm going to work hard," Johnson said on Insiders.com.

Tech's thinnest position a year ago got a major boost on signing day as the coaching staff signed one



By Jamie Howell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Head football coach Chan Gailey speaks before the press at Wednesday's announcement of the 2004 football class. Gailey and his staff signed their best class yet, that includes several of the nation's top players.

of the highest-rated collection of defensive linemen that Tech has ever had in a single recruiting class. David Brown comes to the flats from Madison, AL. He pledged to the Jackets after being pursued heavily

by Notre Dame and the Alabama Crimson Tide. Defensive tackle Daryl Richard will continue the tradition of excellent defensive line-

See *Signing*, page 30

Softball season begins at Mardi Gras

By Kimberly Rieck
Sports Editor

Coming off the two most successful seasons in school history, Tech's softball team is aiming to reach even greater heights this season. Under new head coach Ehren Earleywine, the team is challenging themselves with one of the toughest schedules in the nation. The Jackets will open up their season Saturday at the Mardi Gras Tournament in Monroe, Louisiana. The softball tournament will feature No. 9 Louisiana-Lafayette, Louisiana-Monroe, Kentucky and Garner-Webb.

Earleywine took over for former head coach Kate Madden last summer. Previously Earleywine was Tech's top assistant and helped guide the Jackets to a school record 52 wins. The team missed the College World Series last season by only one win.

"I think after having been to the Regional Tournament the past two years, the obvious next step is going to the World Series," Earleywine said in a press release. "Obviously, winning an ACC Championship is our primary goal, getting back to NCAA Regionals is number two

and winning the regional will be the third."

One of the team's strongest assets this season is the leadership from its lineup, that includes five seniors—Tara Knudsen, Soraya Reddick, Erin Voeltz, Tasha Waugh and Sara Wiss-

"We've taken on the philosophy that in order to be the best, you have to play the best."

Ehren Earleywine
Head coach

mann. "We have a pretty solid junior and senior class. Those athletes all have two years of regional tournament experience. They can create their own destiny this year," Earleywine said.

The Jackets will need to utilize the seniors' experience as well as the rest of the talented lineup because the team is facing one of the toughest schedules in the nation. On the

ACC front, Tech will play one additional team as N.C. State has added a softball team this season. Tech's schedule includes facing ten teams that made the NCAA Regional Tournament in 2003 and three of those teams—Alabama, Arizona and Louisiana-Lafayette—advanced to the College World Series.

In order to get ready for the Atlantic Coast Conference, which added a sixth team for softball in NC State this year, the Yellow Jackets will face one of the toughest schedules in the country. Tech will play against 10 teams that made the NCAA Regional Tournament in 2003 and three—Alabama, Arizona and Louisiana-Lafayette—that advanced to the College World Series. "I would be real surprised if this wasn't the hardest schedule that Tech has ever had. That definitely sets us up in terms of preparing for the ACC, NCAA Regional Tournament and hopefully the World Series. We've taken on the philosophy that in order to be the best, you have to play the best. That's how our schedule has been arranged and we look forward to the challenges."

See *Softball*, page 27

sports shorts

ACC announces 2004 schedule

The ACC finalized Georgia Tech's 2004 football schedule Monday and highlights include home games with new ACC members Miami and Virginia Tech. Tech will host ACC rivals Duke Oct. 16, Virginia Tech Oct. 28 in a Thursday night game on ESPN and Virginia Nov. 20.

Tech will host non-conference opponents Samford Sept. 4 in the season-opener and Connecticut Nov. 13. Tech's away games include Clemson Sept. 11, North Carolina Sept. 18, Maryland Oct. 9, N.C. State Nov. 6 and Georgia Nov. 27.

Lady Jackets to face No. 2 Duke

The Lady Jackets' basketball team will travel to Durham Saturday to face No. 2 Duke. Tech will broadcast the game on WREK-Radio, 91.1 FM in Atlanta and online at www.wrek.org. Live stats for the game will be available at www.ramblinwreck.com.

Smith chosen for ACC honor

Junior Shanta Smith has been named the women's ACC Indoor Track and Field Performer of the Week after earning her second NCAA provisional mark and a first-place in the triple jump at the Gator Invitational. Smith also posted an NCAA provisional time in the 400 meters.

Athletes receive weekly awards

Men's diving champion Paul McCarty, women's track standout Shanta Smith and women's tennis player Lindsey Stauss have been named Wendy's Georgia Tech Student-Athletes of the Week for Feb. 2-9.

McCarty had three wins in four events against No. 21 Kentucky and Emory in last weekend's home meets. Smith had two top 10 finishes for the No. 23 track team at last weekend's Gator Invitational. Stauss won all of her singles and doubles matches at the Minnesota Court Classic.

on deck

Event	Date
WB vs. Duke	2/7
TF at Mayo Invitational	2/7-8
MB vs. UNC	2/10
SB at ULM Tournament	2/7-8
MT vs. Chattanooga	2/7
MT vs. Mercer	2/7
MB- Men's Basketball, WB- Women's Basketball, TF- Men's and Women's Track and Field, SB- Softball, MT- Men's Tennis	