

Diary

chimed in with unexpected exuberance while hitting the driver Jason Fortner in the arm.

"Dude, dude, guess who I saw at a Steak-n-Shake in Indianapolis? Bob Costas. He was there with his family. For real, that guy is tiny, he's only like 5'1".

Day 2

The second and final day of my time was by far the most eventful. I met at the hotel at 10 a.m. to go to Lenox Square with any of the players who wanted to go. The only two that woke up that early were West and Marquette shooting guard Dwayne Wade. After being dropped at Lenox, I essentially chaperoned West and Wade to make sure they didn't get lost and got back to the van in time to be punctual to their other commitments later that day. Thursday mornings at Lenox are quite boring if it had not been for the banter and basketball chatter that the three of us slung around while hanging out.

Wade, who's Golden Eagles were ousted from the NCAA tournament by Tulsa in the first round, proceeded to talk about the usual basketball player list of topics while with other players, namely, why the teams they lost to really weren't that good. It took about twenty minutes of walking around before the three of us really started to have conversations, usually focusing on basketball and Conference USA and the Atlantic 10. The best moment of the morning came when a young fan recognized Wade in his Marquette basketball gear and asked for his autograph on a brand new Jor-

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dan-brand cap, which is 90% polyester and 10% spandex. Try signing that with a Sharpie.

After a few hours of hanging around the mall and David and Dwayne commenting on how they could not afford a thing in the whole mall, we returned to the hotel.

Upon arriving at the hotel, I

When he [Jason Williams] was a young boy, he went up to Charles Barkley and tugged on his shorts asking for an autograph. Barkley blew him off.

quickly jumped into Fortner's van and rode with him and another driver, Greg Slate, to pick up Duke point guard Jason Williams from the airport. We greeted Williams and Duke Sports Information Director Jon Jackson. Williams is the most personable athlete that I as a journalist have ever come in contact with. Williams immediately started talking and joking with the three of us while waiting for their bags. Williams has an infectious personality that makes even the most rabid Duke haters respect and in fact like him because of his warm disposition. Williams, by far the most recogniz-

able athlete of the week, was continually approached in the airport by fans, not a single one was turned away or treated like they were wasting his time. Williams has a way of making the fan feel that there is nothing in the world that he would rather be doing than talking to this fan at this particular instant, a trait that is nonexistent among many professional athletes.

Upon transporting Williams and Jackson back to the hotel, it was almost time for the autograph session at the Alexander Memorial Coliseum. During the autograph session, Fortner and I went to pick up Kansas power forward Drew Gooden from the Cheesecake Factory in Buckhead, where the Jayhawks were having a team dinner. Gooden, like all the athletes, was a very humble, personable person.

When we arrived at the Coliseum, Gooden went back to the locker room to change into his Kansas warm-ups. In the hallway, he stopped to give Jason Williams' mother Althea a big hug, and Jason's father David a handshake. Often lost in the shuffle of college hoops are the relationships between players and families of the elite players. These players play against each other, and play together in All-Star games resulting in a close bond among guys like Jason Williams and Casey Jacobsen who have been friends since playing in high school all-star games.

The most memorable experience for me as a journalist to gain perspective on the lives and personalities of these players was the conversation that I had with Althea Williams while waiting for Gooden and Jason Williams to dress before the show. Mrs. Williams, not know-

ing who I was or why I was there, still talked to me and gave me advice on life that showed that she seized the opportunity to teach a young man. The genuine kindness of the Williams' made it clear where Jason gets his level head.

Williams revealed to us the reason why he never dismisses a fan. When he was a young boy, he went up to Charles Barkley and tugged on his shorts asking for an autograph. Barkley blew him off, and Williams promised himself to never treat a fan that way.

Following the award show, we

loaded the players into the vans and drove them to the ESPN Zone for the VIP party. One of the greatest perks was attending this event. Most of the players grabbed some food and then went to play video games.

The insight into the stars' personalities and complete lack of egos provided a perspective we rarely see. While the media places emphasis on their failures like Williams missing the free throw against Indiana to tie the game, let's not forget the three-pointer he made to get his team into that position. As fans, let us remember they are human.

Out with a Bang Tony Akins



By Scott Meuleners / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Tony Akins put in 14 points and dished out seven assists to become the MVP for the college All-Stars' 86-76 win over the Globetrotters.

Beyond the White and Gold

They could see half of the Final Four

By Derek Haynes
Sports Editor

There were thousands of rabid college basketball fans in the Georgia Dome last week, but there was a small group that grabbed my attention.

They weren't the ones with turtle earrings.

They weren't the ones with the fashionable red and white striped Indiana Hoosiers warmup pants.

They were the ones sitting in their seats, sometimes applauding, sometimes looking as if they might fall asleep.

And who could blame them?

"I've missed three Final Fours since 1971," said W.J. Williams, in attendance with son Norbert. "These are the worst seats I've ever had."

I sat with the Williams', who

both coached high school basketball in Alabama, during the beginning of the second half of the

They were the ones sitting in their seats, sometimes applauding, sometimes looking as if they might fall asleep.

Oklahoma-Indiana game Saturday evening. Half of the action we couldn't see; the makeshift bleachers blocked our view of the plays taking place in the near court.

Why do the Williams' do it?

"The atmosphere," said the elder Williams.

Sitting to the right of the Williams pair was another father-son combination, both decked in Atlanta Braves hats.

"It's bonding time," said David Mitchell there with his son Eddie, who's a Clemson fan. "Plus we got to see Ralph Sampson, Jim Calhoun, and Bill Walton."

Near the tunnel, about ten rows below the Maryland pair, was volunteer Robert Crowther, a senior airman at Dobbins Air Force Base. Crowther didn't seem too concerned about fans sneaking into this section of the stadium; he was sitting a couple rows below the tunnel with his back facing the entrance.

"The fans up here don't seem to complain a lot," said Crowther.

Baseball

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back for seven runs in the inning off of Nick Wagner and Andrew Kown. The two freshmen were not very successful in their mop-up duty and did not do anything to help their push for future relief work.

The second game on Saturday belonged to Brian Burks, as the sophomore starter pitched a five hit shutout, the first nine inning complete game shutout for Tech since 1998. Burks had five strikeouts in allowing only five hits and no walks.

Tuesday's game against Georgia Southern was really a story of two games. In the first phase of the game, freshman hurler Kyle Schmidt dominated the Eagles, going eight strong innings striking out a career-high ten, walking none, and giving up only six hits and no runs. Unfortunately for Schmidt, the Jackets relievers were unable to hold the lead as Georgia Southern rallied for two runs off of Jeff Kindel and Victor

Menocal to tie the game in the top of the ninth. In Menocal's second inning of work, the Eagles hit back-to-back singles before taking the lead on a two out single by Brandon Burnsed off of Aaron Walker. Philip Perry came in and got the last out of the tenth.

Just when it looked like the Jackets' season long problems with late inning relief were about to turn victory into defeat, Jeremy Slayden led off the bottom of the tenth with a towering home run to right field off of lefthander Kevin Culpepper to tie the game. Georgia Southern responded by bringing in their closer, Jason Cadenhead. The Yellow Jackets completed the rally with back-to-back-to-back singles from Tyler Parker, Mike Nickeas and Wes Rynders to score the winning run.

Tech finished up the week with a dominating effort over Georgia Southern in taking a 9-3 victory. Jeff Watchko pitched his longest outing of the season, as he went seven innings while giving up only

one run on eight hits and no walks. Drew Taylor gave up the final two unearned runs in mop-up duty. Eric Patterson led the way offensively with three hits and two RBI.

Jeremy Slayden hit three home runs this week to become the team leader with eight, but the player of the week was Matt Murton as he went 12 for 22 on the week to raise his batting average from .241 to .305. Murton had been on a 4 for 31 slide in the two weeks before facing N.C. State.

While Bakker and Schmidt both had very impressive outings, the pitcher of the week has to be Brian Burks with the first shutout pitched by a Tech pitcher since 1998.

Victor Menocal's 26-game hitting streak has almost overshadowed his excellent relief work and his overall clubhouse leadership. The Jackets really needed someone to step up and take over the closer role and Menocal has done just that.

Tech gets back to ACC action at home Friday against Duke at 7 p.m.

Intramural Notebook

with Jack B. Nimble

Heezy Fo... wins name title

I went down to SAC this past week and what did I see? Nothing! Except for the occasional pigeon or loose ball, the fields have been empty due to missing people. But there were a few games going on...

3-on-3 Hoops League

In the Fraternity A-League, PDT has managed to only let their opposition score eight points over four games. The catch? They have not scored any and have not shown up for any of their games. Come on guys, get out of bed and head down to SAC.

On the flip side there's Zahed's Team in the B-League. They have averaged nearly a 30-point victory and gave up only 15 points to the Black Lungs. Someone

should probably tell the Lungs to wait till after the game to light up.

And then there's the team I'll be rooting for: Heezy FoSheezy.

Softball League

If your lookin' for some intense action head over to SAC fields and watch the TKE softball team. In only two games they have scored 30 runs but allowed 29.

Meanwhile the B-League's IP-ST's are anything but fun to watch. They killed the Ebola Death Virus 20-0 before sweeping the rest of their opponents.

In women's softball I can't wait till Zeta faces the Phi Mu. Until then I'll be expecting quite a few no-shows and forfeits.

Aquarium

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looking at a possible site west of campus for the golf team and a possible on campus site for the softball field."

All talk of possible sites for new facilities is just speculation at this point, as discussions are in the very early stages. According to Carter, all parties involved will have to work to identify available land for replacement facilities. He is confident that, as the process continues, the Georgia Tech Foundation will make the right decisions.

"If we came to a deal, there would be no downside to students. It would have to be a situation where we stop using the old facilities one day and start using the new facilities the next

day," said Carter.

Home Park residents would also be affected by the aquarium, but

"We would think that there would be a better spot (for the aquarium)"

John Carter
President, Georgia
Tech Foundation

have not been officially approached for their input yet because, with the discussions at such an early stage, it is not yet known how Home Park would be affected. A study has been requested by the Northwest Community Alliance to investigate the aquarium situation and its effect on

the neighborhood.

"There are a lot of issues to be accounted for," said Carter. "We all need to sit down in a warm and friendly environment and work it all out. We are not close at this point to selling the land."

the buzz

with troy matteson

by kimberly rieck



Since joining the Yellow Jackets Golf Team in 1998, Troy Matteson has achieved a number of impressive finishes and honors. Last year he was named a GCAA All-American and finished the year ranked second on the team with a 72.45 round average. This year, he became the first Yellow Jacket to win three straight tournaments when he won the Las Vegas Collegiate with a closing score of 8-under-par, 70-69-60-208. On Friday, he'll be leading the top-ranked Yellow Jackets when they play in the Ford U.S. Collegiate Championships at the Vista Vallarta Course in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

KR: What do you say to critics who say that golf isn't a real sport?

TM: Well I would first tell them to come look at our schedule. Our schedule consists of getting up at 5:30 in the morning. We're in the workout room by six, we're lifting weights. We do circuit training, and we run every single day. On top of that, we endure pretty harsh temperatures, the same thing that football would endure as far as near freezing temperatures to over a 100 degree heat index in the summer.

KR: What's your favorite place that you've played this year? I know you guys have been to Hawaii and other great locations.

TM: I tell you what Hawaii is hard to beat. We spent a week in Hawaii and played in a golf tournament. You go from 30 degree weather here, I think it was really cold that week, and you get off the plane, and you want to be in your shirt, and your hula shirt and go straight to the beach. There's nothing like that in the world where you can just change

temperatures so drastically. Just being down there is so tropical, and just palm trees and beaches and stuff like that. It's certainly not a place that I would go if Coach didn't take us there.

KR: What is it like to be on a No. 1 team?

TM: Well every year I've been here, the team has always been really good with Matt Kucher, and Bryce Molder, and numerous others on the team that I've grown up with. You have to get up every morning, even when things aren't looking so good, and say "You know I play for the No. 1 team in the nation, we're doing the right things, and this is the opportunity of a lifetime to be able to play on a team like this."

KR: It must be great to see the professional golfers from Tech doing so well like David Duvall.

TM: David's doing good; he came back and saw us during a qualifier one time. He came back and talked to us, a really nice guy. Stewart Cink, another guy who got out just before him, is doing really well on the tour. And then Matt

Kuchar had his first win while we were playing in Vegas at the Honda Classic. Bryce Molder, who just got out, is doing well and he's over in Australia out playing the Austral-Asia tour. And those two guys, Kuch and Bryce, I lived with and I knew real well.

KR: What are your goals for after college?

TM: After college, I'm definitely going to give it a run to play professional golf. I think anybody on our team has the capability of doing that, and would be crazy not to at least go try to see what you can do. You don't want to be sitting around ten years later saying I really had a chance and just never took it.

KR: What's the last movie you saw?

TM: I would say that the last movie I saw was Summer Catch, and it was with Freddie Prinze, Jr. and the girl from Seventh Heaven. I thought it

junior golfer

was a great movie. It kinda sucked me in. I really don't go out to the movies very much, I don't think most college kids do after the first college years. I really did enjoy the movie though.

KR: What is your favorite TV show?

TM: Probably Saturday morning fishing programs. I fish

a lot, that's what I spend all my free time outside of golf, school, and my fiancé, who I just took to the airport about 30 minutes ago. I spend all my time fishing. I love to fish, I've been doing it since I was a little kid.

KR: Who's your favorite band?

TM: I enjoy listening to Tim McGraw and Faith Hill. I've just been kinda on that kick for a while. I think it's mostly what I've been listening to.



Swim

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lay school records.

After the first two days of competition, the team had not yet earned any points. Salazar competed in his first individual event of the meet bright and early at 11 a.m. In his first national championship, Salazar stepped up to the challenge. He shattered his lifetime best mark with a time of 1:45.59 in the 200 back, and a 20th place finish. In the 1650 freestyle, Ayalon qualified for the championship final. He destroyed his lifetime best and school record time in the final by more than 3 seconds with a time of 14:55.05. The new record gave the team an-

other milestone-Ayalon became the first ever 1st team All-American for the team, and scored 11 points, and his eighth place finish was the highest individual finish in school history. "I didn't really expect anything. I didn't set any goals. I just wanted to swim as fast as I could, and that's what I tried to do. I try to beat as many people as I can, whether it's eighth, seventh, or other places," said Ayalon. His split times for the final 150 yards of the race were faster than Southern California's Olympic silver medalist Erik Vendt's final split times by more than a second. Vendt won the event, and was named Swimmer of the Year. "We got a lot of compliments from a lot of coaches on Shilo's performance because

it was a very well swum race. He was very patient, early in the race the guys got ahead of him, and he just kinda held his own and swam his own race," said Baron.

Once all the point totals from all of the events were tabulated, it was announced that the team had tied for 27th in the nation with Louisiana State, and Hawaii, the highest finish in school history. "We're pleased with what we did. At the end, we're continuing to take steps in the right direction, and as long as we continue to do that, I'm going to be very pleased with the coaching staff and how we're representing Georgia Tech, and take a lot of pride in the job that we are doing at Georgia Tech," said Baron.

There were other surprises in the results. After earning over 100 points of their 512 point total in diving, the Texas Longhorns edged the regular season No. 1 Stanford by 11 points to win their third consecutive title. "A lot of people wish you good luck when you come to a meet like this. I tell them that I never want luck, I just want close races. Eleven points is probably a total of 25 hundredths of a second," said Texas Head Coach Eddie Reese.

After the last event, awards were given to Florida's Greg Troy and Texas' Matt Scoggin for the swimming and diving coaches of the year. Troy was Baron's high school coach at the Bolles School in Florida, and a family friend. "I've considered him

to be somewhat of a mentor...so I was very pleased to see Greg get the honor and see his team perform as well as it did," said Baron.

The meet's lasting legacy is the numerous NCAA, American, U.S. Open, and pool records that were shattered at the meet. Olympic Gold medalist Anthony Ervin, a junior at UC-Berkeley, eclipsed the previous records in the 100 free and the 50 free. Of his record in the 100 free on the third day of competition, Ervin said, "I started off pretty good. I didn't really know what to think. I was pretty tired when I woke up this morning, I'm sure just like a lot of people in this meet. But you surprise yourself sometimes when you're tired."

Study

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who don't have the added worries of athletics still struggle to get their requirements completed.

"I believe it is possible to get everything you need to do done," said Mike Garlow, a fullback for the football team. "However, it requires cooperation from coaches and teachers. Usually both understand we have many obligations as student-athletes."

Luckily for the athletes, the Georgia Tech Athletic Association offers one of the most comprehensive academic support programs in the country. With required study hours for incoming freshman, as well as tutoring and help sessions for many classes, the academic program provides resources that help student-athletes stay afloat in a sea of time conflicts, practice schedules, and competitions.

"One of the duties of academic advisors is to stay on top of individual athletes' academic performance and needs," said Dr. Carole Moore, the Director of Academic Services. "We keep coaches informed of the students' progress, problems, challenges, and issues. It is up to the student-athletes to keep up with their academics, but we assist them when it is necessary."

Contrary to many popular beliefs, all athletes are not "dumb jocks"

and they normally do not come to Georgia Tech just for athletics. Student-athletes come to Georgia Tech for the same reason that other students do: they want to study at a school that has a strong reputation for academic excellence.

"I think the Georgia Tech Athletic Association has created a great atmosphere for their athletes so they can succeed in their sport, while experiencing college like an average student," said Winston Neal, a senior on the men's basketball team.

Ultimately, there is a trade-off

because of sports. While most college athletes might not get to experience the full social "college experience," they are still getting to play their sport in an elite level of competition, distinctly represent their school to the nation and

sometimes even getting face-time on national television, all while obtaining a degree from a high-ranked institution. So is athletics truly such a time sacrifice?

"I think if you ask any Tech student if they feel they have enough time to do all the things they want to do the answer would be no," said Byrd. "Being a student-athlete, the answer is the same, but I don't feel that athletics hinders me, if anything it probably keeps me more on track and more focused than I would be if I didn't work athletics into my schedule every day."

"It is up to the student-athletes to keep up with their academics, but we assist them when it is necessary."

Dr. Carole Moore

Director of Academic Services



By Peter Jensen / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Atlantic Station construction shown with Glenn Field in the foreground. A group that is trying to find sites for an aquarium has approached the GT Foundation about purchasing the land used by the golf and softball facilities.

Golf, softball facilities could become home for aquarium

By John Parsons
Contributing Writer

The Marcus Foundation has approached the Georgia Tech Foundation about purchasing a 19- to 20-acre tract of land on which to build a 250,000 square foot aquarium. The land currently contains Georgia Tech's softball field and golf facilities, as well as a building currently leased to the Department of Natural Resources.

The Marcus foundation is still considering the Narjoe Timber & Supply Co. site on Mecaslin Street as well as Midtown Crossing, the shopping center at the corner of 14th Street and Techwood Dr. that

contains All-Star Pizza and Office Depot. The shopping center is owned by Selig Enterprises, whose executive vice president, David Witt, has said that they prefer that their land not be used for the aquarium.

Home Depot Co-Founder Bernie Marcus and Gov. Roy Barnes announced last November that the Marcus Foundation has pledged \$200 million to build the Georgia Aquarium. Tech alumnus Jeffrey Swanagan was named executive director of the aquarium.

"We would think that there would be a better spot (for the aquarium), but we're not in the aquarium business; we're in the investment business," said John Carter, President

of the Georgia Tech Foundation. "If we were to sell the land, it would be at a fair and marketable value because it is our responsibility to protect the endowment."

Getting a fair price for the land is not the only issue because, among other unresolved issues, replacement facilities for the softball and golf teams would be needed.

"Our position is that all of our requirements have to be met," said Carter. "We obviously cannot continue without a softball field and a golf facility. They would have to be as close to campus as possible, ideally closer than they are now. We're

See *Aquarium*, page 31

All-American Ayalon, senior Laitala make waves with school-record marks

By Kimberly Rieck
Staff Writer

Usually a team can predict how well it's going to do in the National Championships based on how it performs at its conference championships and during the regular season. But if this year's Division I Men's Swimming Championships are any indication, a team's best bet is to predict that anything will and can happen. Before a boisterous sold-out crowd at UGA's Gabrielsen Natatorium on March 28-30, several surprises and upsets took place as American records were shattered.

The Yellow Jackets came to the meet with high hopes and expectations after a record four swimmers qualified for the meet, and a second-place finish in the conference championships. It breaks the previous record of two from last year. Two weeks ago, it had appeared that only Junior All-Americans Ayalon, Tsuji, and Junior James Salazar would go to the meet. ACC Champion David Laitala was first alternate for the event. However 48 hours before the week, the team got the call that another swimmer had dropped out of the meet, and Laitala could take his spot.

Laitala's entry into the meet added another dimension to the game plan. Before, the team was only preparing for individual events. Now, the team was able to have two relay

teams because they had four swimmers, and an NCAA B qualifying time for the 400 IM relay and the 800 freestyle relay. Georgia Tech was one of only 20 schools in the nation that qualified for relay competition. Unfortunately, the relay squads were not the usual lineups. Ayalon usually never swims anything less than 400 yards in competition, and now he was expected to swim a 100 yard freestyle sprint. Tsuji, a breastroker, had never

"David [Laitala] had a really good meet. It's very fortunate that he did get pulled in off the alternate list."

Seth Baron
Swimming and Diving Coach

swam a 200 free in his entire collegiate career. "We just didn't have the right combination of guys, but we still went ahead and swam the relays and had fun doing it," said Coach Seth Baron.

The team began their quest to improve on last year's 29th place finish on day one of the meet with the 500 freestyle. Ayalon finished

19th in the event with a time of 4:22.94. Afterwards, Laitala swam the 200 IM. He finished 25th with a time of 1:47.95, a lifetime best, and a school record. In the 400 IM relay, the relay squad missed the consolation final in the 400 IM relay by just 3 tenths of a second, and finished 17th.

Ayalon kicked off competition again on the second day when he swam the 400IM. He finished 27th with a time of 3:53.88. Next up was Laitala in the 100 fly, the event where he earned the school's first ACC swimming championship since 1989. He had a lifetime best swim, and set another school record with a time of 47.68 and earned 20th place. In the 100 breaststroke, Tsuji finished lower than anticipated with a time of 56.17, and a 38th place finish. The day's events were capped off with the 800 freestyle relay which earned the team a 17th place finish and a time of 6:46.65. Laitala's opening leg was another lifetime best swim. "David had a really good meet. It's very fortunate that he did get pulled in off the alternate list. For him as a senior, it was a really good experience for him to finish his collegiate career at that meet, swimming the best performances [of his life] in every event," said Baron. Laitala leaves Tech with 3 individual school records, and 4 re-

See *Swim*, page 33

The Diary of an ESPN Awards Show Escort

Hangin' with Jason Williams

The Nique's David Rottman tells what it's like to escort college hoops stars around Atlanta

By David Rottman
Contributing Writer

Last week I was able to spend the previous week riding shotgun in ESPN vans transporting the athletes for ESPN the Magazine's College Basketball Awards Show held at the Alexander Memorial Coliseum. This is an account of my two blissful days rubbing elbows with college basketball's finest.

Day 1

Our first pickup was Xavier center David West. West was the quietest player during the week, but still a pleasant young man.

Later in the evening, we returned to the airport to meet Southern California's Sam Clancy. Clancy was a physical specimen that stuck out like a sore thumb to the relatively miniature people surrounding him. Upon arriving at the hotel, Clancy jumped out of the van and immediately embraced Cincinnati point guard Steve Logan. The two were

high school teammates back in Cleveland, Ohio. Clancy was another quiet, down to earth guy who was quite laid back.

After dropping Sam back at the hotel, we again returned to Hartsfield to pick up Stanford shooting guard Casey Jacobsen. The hazards of carrying an ESPN sign while waiting for the players were the incessant fans asking whom we were picking up. The most animated was clearly a fan who had a real obsession with ESPN anchor Linda Cohn.

Jacobsen managed to sneak by us coming out of the terminal, however, while waiting at his baggage carousel, I noticed a 6'5" figure in Stanford attire walk toward the carousel. On the drive back to the Wyndham on Tenth Street, we decided to take Casey for some fast food, namely, Steak-n-Shake. Jacobsen, in a discussion on different Steak-n-Shakes he had been to,

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atlanta thrashers numbers challenge

explain what the number on page 36 represents, and win a pair of thrashers tickets

last week's winner

Congratulations to John Berthelsen. He was the first to correctly answer that 1-3 was the record of the Tech baseball squad last season against Georgia.

SPORTS

Technique • Friday, April 5, 2002

QB Carousel

The *Nique's* Derick Stanger looks at how the four competitors for the quarterback position are progressing. **Next Week**

Old and armed

Dennis Quaid stars as a 35 year-old making his debut in the majors in *The Rookie*. Does Disney do this true story justice? **Page 19**



by the numbers

0.03

Time margin, in seconds, that Tech male swimmers missed reaching the consolation final for the 400-yard IM relay in the NCAA swimming championship.

1.23

ERA of freshman hurler Kyle Schmidt. In his last two starts he has given up zero walks and allowed only one run. He also struck out 15 batters in helping the Jackets win both times.

26

Games in a row Victor Menocal has managed a hit. His hitting streak places him third all-time for Tech. Carlton Fleming is first and had a hitting streak of 28 games.

33-9

Record for the Lady Jacket's Softball Team so far this season. Freshman pitcher Jessica Sallinger leads the team with 16 wins. So far they have not lost a single ACC game.

atlanta thrashers number challenge
hint: Mr. Everything

1.23, .429

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

The first person to email sports@technique.gatech.edu with the correct response to the challenge will receive a pair of tickets to an Atlanta Thrashers home game, where admission is always half-price for select tickets with a student ID. Visit www.atlantathrashers.com for more info on college nights.

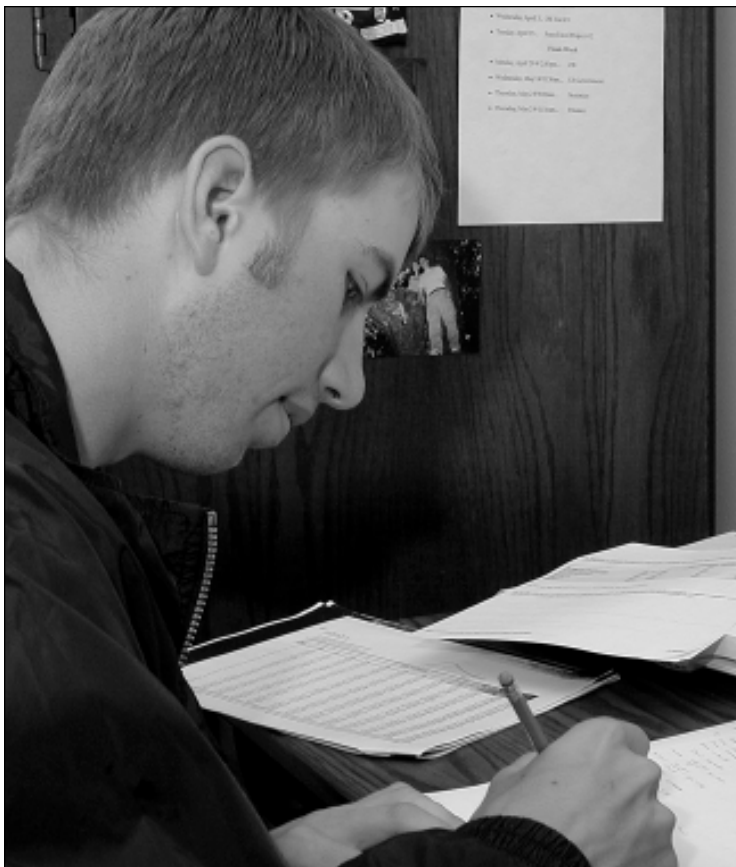
on deck

Event	Date
BB vs. Duke	4/5-4/7
SB at UNC*	4/5-4/6
MG at US Collegiate	4/5
TW at Florida St.	4/6
MT at Jacket Invitational	4/6
WT at Jacket Invitational	4/6
TM vs. Furman	4/7

BB - Baseball, SM - Men's Swimming
TM - Men's Tennis, TW - Women's Tennis
SB - Softball, * - Double Header

Athletes struggle to find study time

The *Nique's* Katie Neal looks at how Tech student athletes balance sports with academics



By Robert Hill / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

John Berthelsen, a member of the Georgia Tech baseball team, studies in his Eighth Street dorm room. Student athletes have to manage their time extremely well with weight lifting, practices and the games themselves.

By Katie Neal
Contributing Writer

In an age of self-help books and time-management seminars, one would think college students could have their time schedules down to an art form. Instead, what you tend to find on a college campus, especially that of Georgia Tech, is a constant rush of students struggling to meet deadlines and due dates. Every student craves those few extra minutes to go outside, see friends, play some sport or maybe watch television while kicking back for those precious moments of relaxation.

What if any extra hour you had was suddenly taken away? Or if you had almost every minute of your day detailed and designated to a certain place at a certain time? Wel-

come to the life of the college student-athlete.

Student-athletes spend less time in class, less time preparing for class, and less time relaxing with friends than do other students. The average day for an athlete is spent with 1 to two hours of lifting weights and training, at least two hours of mandatory practice time, not to mention the possibility of spending an extra hour in the treatment room, as well as mandatory extra team meetings and events. Add in travel time, game time, and a required minimum of 12 hours of classes, and the minutes spent in front of the TV or with friends shrink fewer and fewer.

"The hardest thing about not having enough time is that we are always trying to have fun," said



By Bill Allen / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The tennis squad, which takes on Furman this Sunday at home, faces just as much traveling time as GT's well known men's sports like football and basketball. The squad traveled to California for a weekend in January.

Chirod Williams, a linebacker for the Tech football team. "We'd like to go out at night, chill with friends, or do some other hobby or activity other than studying or doing something in relation to our sport. Especially here at Georgia Tech, we need to study all the time, but it's hard to stay focused."

Is being an athlete really worth it? The time restrictions, not to mention both the physical and mental challenges that go along with competing at a sport at this level?

"In some ways being a varsity athlete restricts me to what I can do as far as the 'college experience,'" said Megan Byrd, a member of the Georgia Tech women's track team. "But I also believe that the gain of participating in a sport is much more satisfying than what is being lost in

not having the college experience. Being an athlete allows me to belong to a big part of our college and that is something that is worth a lot of time."

But being a big part of the college also means having a big chunk of your personal time taken away. Average students

"...we need to study all the time, but it's hard to stay focused."

Chirod Williams
Linebacker

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Sallinger, softball off to 4-0 ACC start

Freshman hurler Jessica Sallinger, who won ACC Player of the Week honors after striking out 21 batters in 14 innings last week, helped lead the Jackets to sweeps over Maryland and Virginia as Tech reached 30 wins for the first time since 1996.

The Jackets (33-9, 4-0 ACC) swept Georgia Southern at home Wednesday 7-3 and 4-0. Tech heads to Chapel Hill, N.C. this weekend for the Tar Heel Invitational.

Akins wins 3-point shootout title

Graduating senior point guard Tony Akins upset favorites Dan Dickau of Gonzaga and Cincinnati's Steve Logan to win the 3-point shootout Friday, March 29.

Arkansas' Jannero Pango had a chance to win but the Razorback missed his last two shots of the shootout to preserve Akins' 17-16 win.

Baseball Notebook: Jackets building steam

Menocal nears Tech hitting-streak mark as GT sweeps NC State, GSU

By Al Przygocki
Contributing Writer

The Joltin' Jackets won five games this week to improve their record to 24-4 overall and 3-2 in ACC play with sweeps on the road against North Carolina State and against Georgia Southern at the new Russ Chandler Stadium.

Building on the momentum gen-

Beesball File	
Current Record:	24-4 Overall 3-2 ACC
Ranking:	6th
3/29	Tech 6, N.C. State 4
3/30	Tech 20, N.C. State 12
3/30	Tech 3, N.C. State 0
4/2	Tech 4, Georgia Southern 3
4/3	Tech 9, Georgia Southern 3

erated by the home victory over UGA, the Jackets rolled into Raleigh and took three games from the Wolfpack to improve their ACC record to 3-2.

The Yellow Jackets took the first game of the series 6-2 behind eight strong innings by Tech ace Kyle Bakker and two home runs from freshman right fielder Jeremy Slayden, bringing his season total to seven. Bakker pushed his team-leading record to 7-0.

Tech continued its season-long tendency towards giving up late runs by giving up two runs in the ninth before Victor Menocal was able to induce a double play and end the game on a strikeout to preserve the win.

The second game of the series

and the first of two games played on Saturday (due to a threat of rain on Sunday) also went to the Jackets as they used a grand slam from Matt Murton as part of a 12-run seventh inning outburst to power their way to a 20-12 victory. Tech also got a home run for Tyler Parker as one of his three hits. Victor Menocal and Eric Patterson added three hits each.

Chris Goodman's start was a bit of a disappointment as he followed up his strong performance against Gardner-Webb with a four inning outing, allowing seven base runners and five runs, three of which were earned.

Tech had a 20-5 lead going into the ninth but N.C. State stormed

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