

Notes from the President

Georgia Institute of Technology

G.P. "Bud" Peterson, President

Finally, the Game, a Last-Minute Victory, and a Happy Flight Home!

09/05/16

DAY 4: Saturday, Sept. 3, 2016

Thank goodness, our game day is finally at hand! We headed off to Aviva Stadium at 9 a.m. (Ireland time) to co-host the President's Tailgate Brunch in the President's Suite at 10. There we heard from a number of speakers and honored another faithful friend of Georgia Tech, former Coca-Cola Chief Operating Officer Donald Keough. The event was not your usual tailgate, but rather more of a formal sit-down Irish brunch with several speeches. We were again joined by Governor and Mrs. Deal and Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, along with Enda Kenny, the current Taoiseach (i.e., the prime minister of Ireland) and Brendan Carr, the Lord Mayor of Dublin.

Afterward the festivities started in earnest. The Georgia Tech Band and Cheer Squad were both on the field, and people were starting to stream into the stadium. We stopped by the Alumni reception and a couple of the suites, then went down on the field for the coin toss with the Governor, the Taoiseach, and the mayors from both Dublin and Atlanta. The Jackets won the toss, and then we were off to the races. There was a steady drizzle, and we jumped off to an early lead. In the second quarter the rain stopped, and so did the offense, but our defense rose up and stopped Boston College a couple of times. The game was back and forth and back and forth. Val and I went down to visit the band in the third quarter to thank them for coming to support the team! Big plays on both sides, but in the end, just when some were thinking that all was lost, the Jackets found a way to win.

When we scored with about 35 seconds to go ahead 17-14 and it looked like we were going to win, we were suddenly whisked down to the field for the trophy presentation. A lot of happy Yellow Jackets were celebrating, but no one was happier than the players and coaches. We posed for lots of pictures and watched the coach and the team captains hold the trophy high in the air for the pictures and TV coverage. The game was a real nail-biter, but so worth the wait! We flew home with the team after the ceremonial presentations and pictures were done.

What a great experience for all of Georgia Tech, our first "international game" and returning home with a victory. This was a chance for 111 players, 150 band members, the Cheer Squad, the Dance Team and coaches, fans, and other supporters to go to Ireland and experience the warmth and hospitality of a gorgeous country, with which we have so much in common! We very much appreciated their friendship and hospitality. While we were all glad to have been able to go, all of Dublin seemed genuinely excited to have us there, and it is great to be on our way home with a win!

G.P. "Bud" Peterson



The national anthem of the U.S. is played ahead of Georgia Tech's 17-14 win over Boston College in Aviva Stadium.



First Lady Val Peterson (left) celebrates with Paul Johnson, head coach, Enda Kenny, Taoiseach of Ireland, and President Peterson after Georgia Tech's 17-14 win over Boston College in Aviva Stadium.



Georgia Tech Head Coach Paul Johnson (left) stands on the field in Aviva Stadium with Enda Kenny, Taoiseach of Ireland after Georgia Tech's 17-14 win over Boston College.