World Series transforms Omaha with baseball glory

By Jair Heejji
Senior Staff Writer

Omaha, Neb. is known from July to May of every year as a small town in the Midwest, on the border of Nebraska and Iowa and in the middle of nowhere. But during the month of June, the city transcends itself from a small town of less than a million people, to the center of attention of the baseball world.

Each year for the past 57 years, coaches, players, fans and media have turned out to experience the pinnacle of collegiate baseball, the Men’s College World Series. Each February, 293 teams, from 31 different conferences around the nation, take the field to compete for one of eight spots and earn the right to battle in a double elimination tournament for baseball glory. A coach’s dream, a player’s fantasy and a fan’s greatest enjoyment; the College World Series creates every year is comparable to the Super Bowl.

A coach’s dream, a player’s fantasy and a fan’s greatest enjoyment; the CWS in Omaha fulfills all desires.

In its 60th rendition in 2006, Omaha was the venue for the Men’s College World Series for the fourth time in school history. Danny Fullerton, as Clemson showed they could over take a deficit, as they did so for the fourth consecutive game. After a heartbreaking defeat at the hands of the Tigers, the Jackets went to a picnic at the local Kiwanis Club’s lake house nearby and tried to put the loss out of their minds.

Tech opened the CWS against the top seed in the field and ACC foe, the Clemson Tigers. The Tigers started off to a sizzling start, as sophomore catcher Matt Wieters delivered an RBI single to right field and scored on a Kindel blast to centerfield to stake Tech to a 3-0 in the first inning. After maintaining a 4-0 through seven and a half innings, the Jackets were in the drivers seat, and poised to advance to the winners bracket until an eighth inning meltdown flushed away all hope.

However, the Tigers would not go quietly as they tied the game after six innings. Part of a dramatic finish, Wieters led off the seventh inning with a controversial solo home run to left-center field and gave the Jackets a 5-4 lead. The sophomore sensation then came on to close out the game and get out of a jam in the eighth inning unscathed.

However, the Titans would not go quietly as they tied the game after six innings. Part of a dramatic finish, Wieters led off the seventh inning with a controversial solo home run to left-center field and gave the Titans a 5-4 lead. The sophomore sensation then came on to close out the game and get out of a jam in the eighth inning unscathed.

Tech had not blown a save all season in 2006, but the bullpen was finally penetrated by the Tigers offense. Clemson scored eight runs in the eighth inning and went on to win 8-4.

Starter Lee Hyde went seven plus innings and allowed two runs, but the bullpen could not hold the Tigers in the eighth. Andy D’Alessio’s three-run homer staked the Tigers to a 6-4 lead and they never looked back.

The players, 16,045 fans and media were stunned at the comeback as Clemson showed they could overcome a deficit, as they did so for the fourth consecutive game. After a heartbreaking defeat at the hands of the Tigers, the Jackets went to a picnic at the local Kiwanis Club’s lake house nearby and tried to put the loss out of their minds. In addition to the cookout, some of the players and coaches showed off their water skiing abilities on the lake. Soon enough, it was back to work as the team prepared for an elimination game against Cal State Fullerton.

Game two for Tech started off very similar to the first, as the Jackets scored three runs in the first inning again. A Kindel RBI single, a Whit Robbins sacrifice fly and a Hedges RBI single spotted starter Wood to a 3-0 lead and later, a fielding error gave him a 4-0 lead. However, the Titans would not go quietly as they tied the game after six innings.

As the 2007 school year comes upon us, many of the veterans from the squad will move on to bigger and better things.

As Starting in the fall, the Jackets will rev it up again in hopes to advance to the College World Series for the fourth time in school history. Danny Hall has led all three CWS teams.

Omaha may be a small town in the Midwest but for a short time during the beginning weeks of summer it becomes a mecca for baseball fans, players and coaches across the nation.

DramaTech Theater Presents

Black Comedy
A British Farce by Peter Shaffer

Directed By Kimberly Jürgen

$5 Students, $8 Faculty, $10 General
June 23-24, 28-30, July 1, 5-8 @8:00 PM
Reservations: (404) 894-2745 or www.dramatech.org
The sixth to tie the game at four.

Clemson scored eight runs in the eighth inning and went on to win 8-4. Starter Lee Hyde went seven plus innings and allowed two runs, but Brad Rulon, Ryan Turner, Jared Hyatt and Tim Ladd could not hold the Tigers in the eighth.

Andy D’Alessio’s three-run homer off of Turner staked the Tigers to a 6-4 and they never looked back. Tech had previously been 45-0 when leading after the seventh inning.

“It was a good game for us for about seven innings, and I thought Lee Hyde pitched magnificently. Now we have to regroup and do the best job we can to stay in this thing,” Hall said.

With the win, Clemson moved on to the winners’ bracket against North Carolina, and Tech went to the losers’ bracket to face Fullerton.

Tech’s second game in the CWS was an elimination game against Cal State Fullerton. The game started off very similar to Tech’s first game as they scored three runs in the first inning for the second straight game.

A Kindel RBI single, a Whit Robbins sacrifice fly and a Hodges RBI single spotted starter Wood to a 3-0 lead and later, a fielding error by Hodges performance this season and used their 69th pick in the near future.

While junior third baseman Wes Hodges had an injury hampered season, he was the highest drafted player from this year’s major league draft and will be returning early to try their hands at professional baseball.

While junior third baseman Wes Hodges had an injury hampered season, he was the highest drafted player from this year’s major league draft and will be returning early to try their hands at professional baseball.

While junior third baseman Wes Hodges had an injury hampered season, he was the highest drafted player from this year’s major league draft and will be returning early to try their hands at professional baseball.

Third baseman Wes Hodges was the highest drafted player from this year’s team. He was drafted 69th by the Cleveland Indians.

Wood is the only one out of these to officially sign with a major league team. He was selected in the third round by the Kansas City Royals, and was designated for assignment to the Class A Burlington Bees as soon as Tech’s run in the College World Series had concluded.

Hodges was selected in the fourth round by the Atlanta Braves, and was assigned to Danville. With the departure of Wood and Hyde, the Jackers’ starting rotation will be significantly less experienced.

Robbins, Gustafson and Goodman have not signed pro contracts at this point, but all of them will be making their decisions some time in the near future.

It is possible that both Gustafson and Robbins will leave, while Good- man will be returning for his senior season to help the team either as a starter or as a closer. While there are many players leaving Tech forever, there are many others that are leaving for the summer to tune up their skills.

There are many notable Tech starters headed to summer leagues including standout catcher/closer Matt Wieters, Ryan Turner, Luke Murton, Michael Fisher, Brad Rulon and John Goodman to name a few.

Notably absent from the list of players joining summer league teams is Danny Payne. He is most likely using this time to recover from his season-ending injury that was suffered on April 29th.

Competition in the Cape Cod League started this past Monday, with Michael Fisher, John Goodman and Brad Rulon participating.

Freshmen Chris House, Eddie Burns and Jason Haniger are playing in the Northwoods League.

Brad Feltes is spending his summer playing in the Coastal Plain League.

"Probably two of the toughest losses that I have been a part of. The ball didn’t bounce the Yellow Jacket way."  

Danny Hall  
Baseball Head Coach
Jackets fall in two games at World Series

By Asif Heerji
Senior Staff Writer

The Tech baseball team began a mission dating back to June 2005, after they won the ACC regular season title. With four seniors and eight juniors, the coach for the U.S. team is Chris Haack, who also serves as Scotland's coach for the NCAA. The matches are being held at the Palmer Cup in Omaha, Neb. Tech's ace pitcher, Blake Wood, battled with shin splints throughout the season and was out for the season with a shoulder injury.

“Two Tech golfers started competing at the USATF Championships. The track team recently concluded competition at the USA Track and Field Outdoor Championships in Greensboro, N.C. On the fourth and final day of competition, sophomore Shantia Moss led the Jackets in the 100-meter hurdles semi-finals as she clocked in a time of 13.52 seconds to help defray costs of athletics administration throughout the country. The number of sports represented in this year’s class of the Georgia Tech Women’s Track and Field team is 6; the number of sports represented in this year’s class of the Georgia Tech Men’s Track and Field team is 7.

Robinson selected to leadership institute

The director of women's basketball operations, LaChina Robinson, has been selected to participate in the 2006-2007 NCAA Leadership Institute for Ethnic Minority Females. She is one of 25 women selected to participate in the organization. The program was designed to address the shortage of women of color in athletics administration throughout the NCAA. Each participant is awarded a $3,000 scholarship upon completion to help defray costs of the 12 month program.

Golfers start play in Palmer Cup

Two Tech golfers started competition in the Palmer Cup yesterday. Roberto Castro and Kevin Larson are among the annual event which pits American collegiate golfers against European collegiate golfers. The matches are being held at the Prestwick Golf Club in Prestwick, Scotland. The coach for the U.S. team is Chris Haack, who also serves as Georgia’s head coach. The U.S. team won last year’s match.

Lee Hyde threw seven innings in the first game of the College World Series against Clemson, allowing only two runs, but the bullpen gave up six runs in the last two innings to give the Tigers the win.

Track competes in USATF

The track team recently concluded competition at the USA Track and Field Outdoor Championships in Greensboro, N.C. On the fourth and final day of competition, sophomore Shantia Moss led the Jackets in the 100-meter hurdles semi-finals as she clocked in a time of 13.52 seconds to help defray costs of athletics administration throughout the country. The number of sports represented in this year’s class of the Georgia Tech Women’s Track and Field team is 6; the number of sports represented in this year’s class of the Georgia Tech Men’s Track and Field team is 7.