Yearbook Portraits

Portraits will be taken October 2 - 6
Mon., Tues., Fri., 9 am - 5 pm
Wed and Thurs., 9 am - 9 pm

Weezer Cover Band

Friday, Sept. 29th at 7:30 pm
Under the Couch on West Campus
$5 w/ Buzzcard
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Blueprint Meetings

EVERY Thursday at 7 pm
Student Services (Flag) Building
Room 137

Sports Editor Needed

Contact The Blueprint for more information
editor@blueprint.gatech.edu
"Our defense was amazing. The main thing about the past weekend was executing the scramble plays that will keep you in the game. Sooner or later you'll tire them out, and that's what we did," Gray said.

Junior Nikki Kaminskas led the Jackets in the first game Saturday evening. Kaminskas, a middle hitter, had a .611 hitting percentage against Stetson and led the Jackets with 12 kills. As a team, the Jackets had an impressive 0.516 hitting percentage as they swept the Hornets 3-0.

"We came in this weekend knowing that we had to pass, serve and do the basics really well. Everyone contributed, even our freshman. I believe that we have a couple of all-ACC players," said Gray.

Tech ousted Sam Houston State in the finale on Saturday night with a 3-0 victory. Uteke Stegemann led the Jackets with 12 kills and six digs.

"When you talk about firing on all cylinders, it's no joke. We have a very strong attack; we don't just have two or three key hitters. We have a full front row that will hit you hard. For a team that plays hard, it's hard for our opponents to key on just one player. We know how to hit the ball away from our opponents," Gray said.

Tech opens up ACC conference play today as they travel to Winston-Salem to take on Wake Forest at 7 p.m. The road trip continues tomorrow night when they travel to Durham to take on Duke at 7 p.m.

"It's certainly good to find depth that you aren't going to contend or compete as a team if you don't have someone contend as an individual," Heppler said.

Over the course of the tournament, the Jackets had a new individual team leader for each round and in the overall standings. "It's certainly good to find depth if it's not the same four guys every weekend. We'll see how much we can develop a little bit. We'll see what happens," Heppler said.

"We'll be as good as we've been [in the past], but we just have to develop a little bit. We'll see what happens," Heppler said.
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Athletes pursue a different practice

Roommates David Herren (left) and Steven Blackwood (right) plan to enroll at the Medical College of Georgia to practice medicine.

By William Bretherton

While Steven Blackwood and David Herren knew very little of each other before last year, they found common ground last summer. Both are pursuing careers in medicine and are at or near the end of their collegiate careers.

Blackwood and Herren are similar in that they are both graduating with a B.S. in Biology in May. They have applied to the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) and are seeking to not only study medicine but to room together, as they are now in the Undergraduate Living Center.

“We made the decision to room together after I made the decision to come back to school,” said Blackwood, “I knew that I was not going to be living with the baseball guys because that would have been awkward. I called around to some older athletes, and then I called David and asked if I could room with them.”

Another factor in Blackwood’s decision to room with Herren had to do with academics.

“The track team and cross country team is a group of very driven group of individuals. You don’t usually see them slack off because they are usually the ones that bring up the overall GPA for the athletic association. It’s good to be around guys like that because they keep you focused, especially since there is no more baseball,” Blackwood said.

The connections between Blackwood and Herren extend beyond their aspirations. Blackwood’s older brother, Wes Blackwood, graduated from the MCG and has finished his residency in pediatrics. Herren’s parents also went to the MCG and he looks to follow in their footsteps. Like Blackwood, Herren’s father played baseball in college from 1969-1972 at Columbus State University.

For Blackwood, his last baseball game was during the College World Series. While he considered going after his childhood dream of playing pro ball, it did not make sense in the general scheme of things for him as he was more interested in becoming a doctor.

“I knew that I would probably get more out of coming back for another season of college ball than going off to the pros,” said Blackwood about coming to Tech for his senior year.

“I think that the money was not enticing enough to leave college, with all the experiences I had here, I would cherish them more than I would have in the minors. I wanted to get [farther] in my degree in biology because I knew that it would help with my life after baseball...I could see that my skills were good enough for college, but were not what people were looking for at the professional level,” Blackwood said.

Blackwood started three out of four years on a team that hosted four straight NCAA Regionals and earned two College World Series berths.

Last year, Blackwood was an Academic All-American and had been named to the CoSIDA Academic All-District First Team twice, as well as being a two-time All-ACC selection for his play in the outfield.

Herren finds himself in a similar situation but in a different sport. He is in his final year of eligibility in both cross-country and track. Herren has dreams to take his running to the next level, like Blackwood did with baseball.

“I am interested in medicine, but would like to take a shot at the Olympics first. I know that my body’s time clock is running short, and that the Olympics is a once in a lifetime chance. Not everyone has the opportunity to try to represent their country,” Herren said.

So far, Herren has had to overcome difficulties in both track and cross country.

“My sophomore season was my all-time low in my running career. After a successful campaign in track and cross country as a freshman, I felt a sharp pain in my left foot during the second week of that season. It was a stress fracture that put me out for the season,” Herren said.

While this was a setback in Herren’s running career, he overcame it on his way to a breakthrough track season in his junior campaign. He set a personal record in the 1500 meter race at the ACC Outdoor Track Championships and also finished 15th at the ACC Indoor Championships in the mile. Both times were team bests.

In cross country, Herren had his best season last year as a junior when he was the fourth best finisher for Tech at the ACC Championships in the 8K, and was the second best finisher for Tech at the NCAA South Region Championships in the 10K.

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“I think that the money was not enticing enough to leave college.
The turning point came when Mike Cox made a one-handed catch on fourth-and-one with just over a minute into the period. The play was reviewed by the replay booth, and the play was upheld as there was “no indisputable visual evidence” to overturn his first collegiate touchdown.

“Reggie threw it a little harder than I was hoping,” Cox said. Cox dislocated the thumb on his left hand during the season opener against Notre Dame game.

“It was a good thing we ran it to the right, so that I could catch it with my right hand. If [the play] was run to the left there was no way I could have caught it.”

The defense intercepted two more passes against Troy, both in the fourth quarter, to set up two Tech touchdowns. The defense dominated the undersized Trojan offensive line and held Troy to just 2.7 yards per rush on the day.

“This is the best depth rotation we’ve had at the defense line since I’ve been here,” said Head Coach Chan Gailey.

The defense had started off shaky in the beginning of the game, giving up a lot of deep throws. But after a second half Troy touchdown, the defense shut down the Trojans.

“The coaches told us that we were playing complacent and we didn’t like that. We had to go out and show what Tech defense was all about,” said Philip Wheeler.

While the score reflects a rout, the Trojans hung with the Jackets through three quarters. Troy intercepted Ball twice, including one in the end zone on a pass intended to Johnson at the end of the first half. The hail mary pass was picked off by Troy’s Tavares Williams just before the second quarter ended.

Ball was also intercepted in the third quarter by Terence Moore as Ball tried to find Johnson on a jump ball in the endzone.

“The Trojans have a lot of speed. I think if you’re not on the field, you can’t see how fast those guys fly to the ball,” Ball said.

Several plays were called back during the first three quarters because of holding and false start penalties committed by both teams.
Tringale leads Jackets at Carpet Collegiate

By Hahnmin Lee
Contributing Writer

Led by a strong performance by sophomores Adam Cohan and Cameron Tringale, the Tech golf team finished in a tie for third place at the Carpet Capital Collegiate in Rocky Face, Ga. The Jackets entered play on Sunday in a tie for eighth, but the team shot a 10-under-par 278, to post the best team score of the day.

Triagle helped the effort by shooting 6-under-par 66, with seven birdies. Cohan also performed well, shooting 4-under-par 64, with one eagle and three birdies.

The Jackets ended the tournament tied with Georgia at 10-under par. Both schools finished behind tournament winner Alabama (-23) and Clemson (-17).

“We played well the last round, and that’s always a positive. It was a great round by Cameron [Tringale] and Adam [Cohan]. Every time you go out, you want to win,” said Tech Head Coach Bruce Hepler.

While all of Tech’s scores were added, each shooting even-par 72s to contribute, each shooting even-par 72s to post the best team score of the day.

Sophomore Cameron Tringale led Tech’s final round charge, shooting 4-under-par 68, with one eagle and three birdies. Cohan also performed well, shooting 6-under-par 66, with seven birdies. Both schools finished behind tournament winner Alabama (-23) and Clemson (-17).

The Jacket's second round. Hall entered the clubhouse shooting a 69 (-3) as the Tech golf team finished in a tie for third place at the Carpet Capital Collegiate in Rocky Face, Ga. The Jackets entered play on Sunday in a tie for eighth, but the team shot a 10-under-par 278, to post the best team score of the day.

Sophomore Tyler Hall also contributed, each shooting even-par 72s to round out the four scores that would be counted towards the team total. Senior Kevin Larsen ended with a 78 (+6), but his was dropped from the team total.

The first day saw Larsen post a 69 (-3) and Castro a 71 (-1). Tringale added a 73 (+1) and Hall posted a 76 (+4). The Jackets ended the day with a 289 (+1), but they trailed by 13 shots heading into the second round.

The Jackets were led by Hall during the second round. Hall entered the clubhouse shooting a 69 (-3) as Tech posted a team score of 287. Castro and Larsen each finished at even par while Cohan shot a 74.

While all of Tech’s scores were hovering around even par, the Jackets were 18 shots behind tournament leader Clemson. The team needed to go out, you want to win,” said Tech Head Coach Bruce Hepler.

Great round by Cameron [Tringale] and that’s always a positive. It was a great round by Cameron [Tringale] and that’s always a positive. It was a great round by Cameron [Tringale] and that’s always a positive. It was a great round by Cameron [Tringale] and that’s always a positive.

Tennis receives charitable boost

By Asif Heerji
Assistant Sports Editor

The tennis team received three very big boosts going into the upcoming 2006-2007 season.

The men’s team added Andrew Groslimond to the coaching staff while Robin Stephenson joined the women’s coaching staff, both as volunteer coaches.

But the biggest boost that both teams received this year came off the tennis court.

Ken and Trish Byers endowed the tennis program with a $500,000 scholarship donation that will be awarded to the top men’s and the top women’s player each year starting this season.

“Every year, [the athletic department] is going to have funds for [tennis] scholarships,” Ken Byers said. “It makes me feel good to have done it. You can’t believe the good feeling you get by making this gift.”

Byers’ generous contribution will recognize the number one men’s tennis player and number one woman’s tennis player as selected by the head coach of each team.

The scholarships will be awarded starting this year and officially on the first day the fall. The Byers Men’s Tennis Scholarship for this year.

I admire and respect the coaches, and the class of players they have. They are world-class guys and they represent our school so well...Sometimes it’s more fun to give money than to make it,” Ken Byers said.

Academic All-American Kristi Miller, a junior from Maryville, Mich., will be the inaugural recipient of the Byers Women’s Tennis Scholarship.

Miller finished the last season’s campaign as the top-ranked singles player in Division 1 and is currently ranked No. 2 going into this season.

Kerry Interviewed and David North (right) were the inaugural recipients of the Byers Men’s and Women’s Tennis Scholarships.

Juniors Kristi Miller (left) and David North (right) were the inaugural recipients of the Byers Men’s and Women’s Tennis Scholarships.

The coaches are world-class guys and they represent our school so well...Sometimes it’s more fun to give money than to make it,” Ken Byers said.

The $500,000 endowment will be divided evenly among the men’s and women’s tennis teams. Awards will be given annually to the top tennis player from each team.
Ulrike Stegemann (left) and Erin Birmingham (right) led the Jackets over the Trojans. The 21 points scored in the fourth quarter.

Ball sets school rushing record

Jackets cruise in Regency

Jackets swept all three opponents this weekend en route to the Regency Suites Midtown Invitational Championship. The team improved their overall record to 8-2 and 6-1 at home by beating South Florida (30-25, 30-21, 30-17), Stetson (30-20, 30-24, 30-28) and Sam Houston State (30-21, 30-29, 30-23). These were the final tune-ups before the ACC season begins this weekend.

Pacing the Jackets’ offense was sophomore Allie Nickamp, who contributed 45 assists and eight digs against the Bulls.

“Now we have to go into the ACC season and really attack them on the serve or on the hitters that we wanted to key on, and attacked them on the serve or on the net with a block,” Gray said.

See Sweep, page 23

Ball sets school rushing record

Quarterback Reggie Ball rushed for 130 yards against Troy as he led the Jackets to a 35-20 victory. Ball also threw for two touchdowns and 164 yards.

“We’ve been friends since we were 13 years old. [We] played junior tennis, collegianteen, pro tennis and now are back on the coaching side of things. He was one of the main reasons I was standing up there. I’m just glad he didn’t roast me,” Thorne said.

Thorne was first notified in early July about his induction into the Hall of Fame.

“It’s not something I thought about, or was hoping for, or was looking at, or was planning on or was a goal in my life. In looking at how big of an honor it is, it’s incredible,” Thorne said.

While at Tech, Thorne earned All-ACC honors all four years and an All-American distinction after his senior year, while posting a Tech record 112 singles victories. After graduation Thorne went on to play professional tennis.

“It’s rough and tons of travel. I think Tech prepares you for it incredibly. I enjoyed some success, but I wasn’t Andre Agassi. It was a job [that] I loved. I was very fortunate to be able to play for eight years,” Thorne said.

Thorne was ranked as high as No. 121 in singles and No. 67 in doubles during his professional career.

In June 1998, Thorne returned to Tech to become the Director of Tennis and men’s head coach.