JSU Band’s controversial halftime show raises eyebrows

By Randy Darnowsky
Staff Writer

The Jacksonville State University marching band recently performed at a Tech football game. The Marching Southerners, as the band is formally called, presented the closer featuring Shostakovich’s Fifth Symphony. The half-time show was inspired by the famous James Bond movie From Russia with Love.

“Our show ends with very fast, powerful, dark sounds and we figured a good way to go out with a boom would be to use the [hammer and sickle] and lots of red at the end of the song,” said JSU tenor saxophone player Antonio Ferrell.

The show featured color guard performers wearing the infamous hammer-and-sickle symbol. The flags used in the performance also bore the flag of the former Soviet Union. According to a widely circulated e-mail from Head Band Director Ken Bodiford, the color guards were representing Russian sailors and add to a large set of ending visual effects.

“Since our musical repertoire consists of all Russian composers, as a design team, we thought that it best represented the theme of our program if we displayed the essence of the Russian flag of that time period. We assumed that our audience would make the connection between our show and the Russian music and the symbol,” Ferrell stated.

“The Southerners have always held a standard of excellence in performance and ethics. There was never any intention to make anyone uncomfortable I’m sure, however everyone is going to have a problem with anything anyone does. So what can you do? If it offends anyone I hope they look past it,” Ferrell said.

“I have instructed my assistants and staff to strip the production of any Russian symbols in the show. The visual program and ideas will not be used during the show,” Ferrell said.

Nevertheless, in the face of widespread criticism, the top personnel have ordered that Soviet symbols no longer be used during the show.

“Our show has been announced and planned for months now, way before the Russia-Georgia conflict started. [The director] assumed our audience would make the connection between our music and the symbol.”

The visual program and ideas will be limited, just as any other typical college band,” the band director said.

“Because of the unexpected reaction and controversy we have taken the hammer and sickle off the color guard uniform and they are no longer using the Soviet flags,” Ferrell said.
Josh Nesbitt rushes during Saturday’s game at Lane Stadium in Blacksburg, Va. Nesbitt led the Jackets with 151 rushing yards and broke the school record for the most rushing yards by a quarterback in a single game.

VT

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a strong performance against the Hokies. Freshman linebacker Kyle Jackson and sophomore safety Morgan Burnett led the Jackets with 13 tackles apiece.

Defensive ends sophomore Derrick Morgan and senior Michael Johnson combined for the only Georgia Tech sack. The Jackets had nine tackles for losses, which set the Hokies back a total of 32 yards.

“The defense has played well in spots, but there is still room for improvement. Overall though we have played pretty well on defense,” Johnson said.

Injuries weighed on the Jackets before and during the game, as sophomore wide receiver Demaryius Thomas and sophomore linebacker Anthony Barnes along with three other Jackets did not play due to injuries.

Dwyer left the game in the third quarter with an injury, and later in the fourth quarter senior defensive tackle Vance Walker also came out. Dwyer would return, however, later in the game to try to help the Jackets make a comeback.

After Virginia Tech kicked a field goal early in the fourth quarter, the Jackets responded with a touchdown of their own. Georgia Tech decided to go for two to tie the game. Even after a false start penalty on the first attempt, the Jackets were able to convert with a pass from Nesbitt to Cox. But the Hokies came back with an 11 play, 76-yard drive to pick up a field goal and the lead, 20-17, which would become the final score of the game.

The Jackets look to rebound tomorrow against Mississippi State, whom they have not faced since 1929.

“Looking at Mississippi State, they are a physical, fast, aggressive football team…. They have weapons and will be a challenge for us so we have to continue to get better. Defensively, they are probably the best team we have played,” Johnson said.

In the second set, the Jackets tore open the lead while cruising for a 25-13 win. A 9-2 run in the third set sealed the score for a victory.

“We were determined to go 3-0 that day because we didn’t want to play another five-game match. That was our day…we told ourselves, ‘Get in and get out.’ We started the match really well and everything just clicked in that one,” Tippins said.

Finally, the Jackets continued their success, needing just three sets against Eastern Illinois. Tech’s blockers helped to hold the opponent to a .091 hitting percentage.

Georgia Tech’s volleyball team huddles at a match in O’Keefe Gymnasium. The team defeated Ole Miss. and Eastern Illinois over the weekend.

V-Ball

from page 32

back kills by Kellogg and Campbell sealed the score and forced another set. In the final set, the Jackets scored quickly for the win.

Tippins posted 28 assists, six digs and two block assists over the last two sets.

“It definitely wears down your body, especially after a five-game match. Everyone brought out their energy that night, and [Ole Miss] brought out their fans, because they were trying to heckle us. Playing volleyball, you have to be in good shape, so we’ve been working on that,” Tippins said.

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2008 Women’s Tennis Team Preview

A new season of women’s tennis will begin this weekend in Atlanta as the Jackets will host the Georgia Tech Invitational tournament. There will be quite a different makeup of the team as senior Christy Striplin and junior Amanda McDowell are the only two remaining players from the 2007 national championship team.

Sophomores Noelle Hickey and Sasha Krupina add two more experienced players from a season ago. Four players are starting their freshman years at Tech: Lynn Blau, Hillary Davis, Irina Falconi and Viet Ha Ngo. Falconi comes to Tech as a five-star recruit on tennisrecruiting.net and has professional experience playing on the WTA Circuit for the past year and a half.

Davis comes to Tech from Austin, Texas with a No. 16 national ranking and being the 2007 Texas Grand Slam Singles Champion. Blau, from Luxembourg, played on the ITF Women’s Circuit for a year and won the Luxembourgish Championship in both individuals and team in 2006. Ngo, from Vietnam, has also competed in several tournaments on the ITF Women’s Circuit over the past year.

With solid returning players and a strong recruiting class, look for women’s tennis to continue the success that it established in recent years.

Irina Falconi

Hometown: Jupiter, Fla.
Year: Freshman
Reason to watch: She enters Tech after playing a year and a half on the professional circuit and as a five star recruit.

Women’s Fall Season Schedule

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<td>11/6-11/9</td>
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2008 Men’s Tennis Team Preview

The men’s tennis team will also start their season this week as they travel to Athens and compete in the UGA tournament.

The team makeup this season will be almost all underclassmen, with no seniors and one junior. Sophomore Guillermo Gomez, who was last season’s ACC Freshman of the Year and Mideast ITA Rookie of the Year, returns to lead the team.

Other positions are fluid and younger guys had opportunities to play at higher positions toward the end of last season. With some experience under their belts, the sophomores will make an impact on the team this season.

Freshmen Kevin King and Dusan Miljewvic provide the Jackets with some depth at several positions. The youth in Tech’s ranks should make the Jackets a force in the ACC as the team can grow together and establish a formidable identity throughout the upcoming season.

Eliot Potvin

Hometown: Hampden, Maine
Year: Sophomore
Reason to watch: Looking to continue his freshman development, Potvin hopes to push men’s team into the top 25.

Men’s Fall Season Schedule

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By Steven Cappetta
Staff Writer

By Jon Drews / Student Publications

Sasha Krupina is one of Tech’s four returning players from last year team. Sasha looks to continue her doubles success.

By Brian Casey / Student Publications

Ryan Smith looks to build off of his freshman season where he played in No. 1 doubles spot.
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Georgia Tech (2-1) vs. Mississippi State (1-2)

By Akshay Amaraneni
Assistant Sports Editor

The last time the Jackets played Mississippi State they were coming off a national championship in the “wrong-way” Rose Bowl. In 1929, the Jackets would defeat Mississippi State on October 5. Unfortunately, Tech, who was a perfect 10-0 the previous season, would finish 3-6 that year.

The Jackets, who played at Virginia Tech last weekend, are coming home for their first game at Bobby Dodd Stadium since August 28. Tech, trying to rebound from their first loss under Paul Johnson, will face the Bulldogs for the third time ever.

In 1909, the Jackets, under John Heisman, went 6-3 with one of their wins coming against the Bulldogs, 23-0. In 1929, the Jackets won 27-13 under William Alexander. Both games were at Grant Field.

The Jackets rank high in rushing stats as expected. Tech leads the ACC in rushing and is ninth in the nation averaging 263 yards per game.

The Jackets are just starting to get comfortable in this new offense. While Head Coach Paul Johnson held back using the triple option play in the first two games, Virginia Tech saw it a lot and Mississippi State may also see it.

The Bulldogs’ secondary ranks 16 in pass defense and 20 in total defense and they have only allowed one meaningful touchdown all year. That came early against Louisiana Tech in State’s first game.

Unfortunately, their offense has a hard time keeping up. Their passing attack is ranked No. 93, while their overall offense is just No. 103 in the nation.

By Michael Schneider / Student Publications

Spread: GT (-7.5). Prediction: MSU 14 - Tech 24

Morris on Campus

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September 17, 2008

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Jackets fall short to Hokies

By Matt Hoffman
Sports Editor

Georgia Tech fell to Virginia Tech 20-17 Saturday in Blacksburg, Va. The Jackets’ loss was the first for them in ACC play. Two other turnover later game, one of which led to a Hokie touchdown, the other led to a Hokie field goal, gave VT the win.

Josh Nesbitt fumbles the ball in the first quarter against Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va. The Jackets’ loss was the first for them in ACC play. Two other turnover later game, one of which led to a Hokie touchdown, the other led to a Hokie field goal, gave VT the win.

Georgia Tech 17
Virginia Tech 20

Aside from a missed point after touchdown (PAT) in the second quarter, the special teams, which were highly questionable after the first two games, showed improvement. Every return picked up positive yardage, and the fumbles which weighed heavily on Georgia Tech during its first two games were avoided.

Virginia Tech, however, wasted no time responding to Tech’s early lead, scoring a touchdown on the next series, which consisted of 13 plays and 80 yards capped by freshman tailback Darren Evans driving eight yards into the end zone. Like the Jackets, the Hokies’ offense was very run heavy. Over 80 percent of the Hokies’ 247 offensive yards were rushing yards with Evans leading the team with 96 yards and sophomore quarterback Tyrod Taylor following closely with 87 yards. Taylor was originally supposed to be red-shirted for the season, but Head Coach Frank Beamer pulled the red shirt after the Hokies fell in an upset to Eastern Carolina in week one.

With 3:44 left in the first half, Georgia Tech scored its first touchdown and took the lead. The blocked PAT by Blair put the score at 9-7 in the Georgia Tech’s favor. The Jackets’ second fumble of the game, again by Nesbitt, came with just 1:10 left in the second quarter. The Jackets’ defense was unable to hold off the Hokies, who got the ball on the Jackets’ 43-yard line, and the Hokies were able to go into the locker room with a lead of 14-9.

Georgia Tech’s defense had

Volleyball takes two of three in Miss.

By Randy Darnowsky
Staff Writer

The volleyball team took two out of three at the Magnolia Invitational played last weekend. The tournament featured two five-set matches and a face off against an SEC opponent. Senior Michelle Kandell was named the top libero, while sophomore setter Mary Ashley Tippins and freshman middle hitter Asia Stawicka were named to the all-tournament team.

On Friday, senior outside hitter Talissa Kellogg led the team with a total of 10 kills but it was not enough as the Jackets lost to SMU. The loss was the second consecutive for Tech, with both coming in five sets. Tech had to win the third and fourth sets just to keep the game alive. The Jackets committed several errors in the final set which cost them the game.

Against SMU, we started off slowly and we were just trying to find our rhythm. It came to us some games and others it didn’t,” Tippins said.

The Jackets managed to put big numbers on the scoreboard. Freshman Allison Campbell, senior Callie Miller and junior Brittany Roderick each had at least ten kills. The Jackets led their opponent in every scoring category, except points.

“Out our passing clicked and everyone’s energy picked up... We brought more of our energy and better passes. Better hits just came about and we were focused,” Tippins said.

Tech later broke their losing streak in an upset to Jacksonville State. Kellogg led the team with 23 digs. The win against an SEC opponent raises questions about old Soviet sentiments that still run strong.

The Hammer Falls

Jacksonville State’s halftime show raises questions about old Soviet sentiments that still run strong

Technique

Friday, September 19, 2008