Hockey

from page 24

distance. The goal was the last of the period, so Tech took a 3-0 lead into the break.

In the second period, the momentum repeatedly shifted. Tech maintained pressure on Vandy’s defense by constantly attack-
ing early on, but after a few minutes Vanderbilt started to pick up their own offense, and they scored 7:10 into the period. Vanderbilt continued to attack fiercely afterwards, but Tech sophomore goalie Maxx Lucas saved some good saves to preserve the 3-1 lead.

“We played down a bit at times due to our inexperience, but later in the game, our stamina helped us to come back and close out the game. We have a lot of team speed, and we were able to keep that up throughout the entire game,” said Day.

Vanderbilt would score once more, but that goal was sandwiched between scores by Tech freshman Zachary Berry and sophomore Derek von Zweck. The final score was 6-2 in favor of the Yellow Jackets.

Day pointed out the team’s all-around balance as a key to the victory. “There’s not much of a drop-off in talent from our team’s victory. There’s a ton of talent,” McSparron added.

As tech was able to keep up with the attack in the second period, the Jackets were a lot slower, and we were able to take advantage of that and put more pucks in the net,” Stapleton said.

Tech was put on the defensive early when a roughing penalty put UNC-Charlotte on a power play, but the attack amounted to nothing thanks to work by Lucas in goal. Soon after the power play ended, Tech took control of the game, maintaining constant pressure on the ‘Jackets’ defense. They were poised to score, and Tech’s freshman line provided the early fireworks.

The game’s first goal came courtesy of Zaske, who scored 6:25 into the period to give Tech an early lead. About two minutes later, Fritz notched his first goal of the season, and 28 seconds after that, Park rebounded a behind-the-net shot off the goalie’s pads and in for the score.

Center Brian O’Connor scored a few minutes later to make the lead 4-0, the score at the break remained that way. The second peri-
od featured several penalties, Tech and UNC-Charlotte combined for 15 in the second period alone. On two occasions, the 49ers had three men in the penalty box.

Senior Tom Porter, a left winger, scored the only goal of the period during a 4-on-4, so the teams headed into the intermission with the Jackets up 5-0. UNC-Charlotte began mounting attacks again, but Lucas repeatedly shut them down.

Tech’s offense continued to score; Park secured his second straight two-goal game when he scored immediately after a face-off 1:54 into the period. Senior left wing Dan Sweeney added two goals in a three-minute span to expand the lead to 8-0.

Shortly after a brief scuffle between a UNC-Charlotte player and Tech freshman Ross Cooper, which led to both being ejected, UNC-Charlotte scored on a power play with 4:55 to go. Tech’s Porter put in his second goal with just over three minutes left, and with the game ended with a final score of 9-1.

“We have a fast team, but…you can’t back down from physical stuff, because other teams will pick up on that, and they’ll play a physical game. We’ve got to be able to dish it right back. And I’m proud of the way our guys do it; they do it in a clean manner, and that’s the key,” McSparron said.

Eight of the team’s 15 goals came courtesy of freshmen, in-
cluding four from Park, and Fritz notched four assists over the week-
end to emerge as the team leader in points.

“We’re throwing them right into the action, and they’re definitely stepping up and performing, so we’re very encouraged by that,” Baker said.

“It’s a good core for the future, as far as the team is looking for the next three or four years,” said Stapleton.

One of the major concerns was team chemistry on the ice, but the general sentiment was that this was quickly becoming a non-
issue.

“We’ve got a lot of new line combinations, a lot of new players, but I definitely think we came together a little bit more [Saturday night] than we did [Friday night]… I think as long as we keep getting to know each other, we’ll get a lot better,” Baker said.

EAST VILLAGE OPERA COMPANY

Friday, Oct. 10, 8 p.m.

Rock meets opera with the exhilarating and adventurous music of the East Village Opera Company. This 11-person group, comprised of a five-piece band, a string quartet, and two vocalists, revisits classic opera arias into bona fide rock anthems. The band offers hard-hitting arrangements of opera’s greatest hits, including “La donna è mobile” from Rigoletto, “Habanera” from Carmen, and “Nessun dorma” from Falstaff.

ABIGAIL WASHBURN and the SPARROW QUARTET

featuring BELA FLECK with EASYEE DRESDEN and BEN SOLLEE

Friday, Oct. 17, 8 p.m.

Abigail Washburn assembles an all-star collaboration with seven-time Grammy winner Bela Fleck on banjo, Ben Sollee on cello, and Grammy-nominated Casey Dreissner on fiddle. The unprecedented acoustic repertory blends Appalachian fiddle tunes with jazz, classical, and Chinese folk music for a surprising, fresh and cohesive sound.

JOE SAMPLE TRIO

featuring RANDY CRAWFORD

Saturday, Oct. 18, 8 p.m.

What could be better than an evening with legendary jazz pianist Joe Sample and the sparkling vocals of the phenominal Randy Crawford? Crawford reunites with Sample for a soulful and eclectic collaboration that features the best of these two jazz artists.
Softball from page 24

The second game was a pitching duel. Senior Tiffany Johnson was the starting pitcher for the Jackets, while Sophomore pitcher Emily Schreck pitched the remainder of the game while giving up few runs.

"Tiffany [Johnson] really came out throwing hard, she did a great job. Jessica Coan came out on her first day and was striking people out left and right. Schreck did a good job of closing us out," Haller said.

"The freshmen all did great. Every one of them had a shining moment today. I feel really confident for the spring that they're going to make a big impact for us," Haller said.

The Jackets swept the double header over Georgia State, winning 10-4 and 8-4. The Jackets entered the season as the top seed in their conference and hope to return to the national tournament in November which will likely be held in California.

The Jackets were able to put together a winning streak against unranked teams. This year, the Jackets lost early in tournaments and fell out of the rankings when the Jackets lost early in tournaments to unranked teams. This year, the Jackets entered the season ranked, but promptly fell out of the rankings when the Jackets lost early in tournaments to unranked teams. This year, the Jackets entered the season ranked, but promptly fell out of the rankings when the Jackets lost early in tournaments to unranked teams. This year, the Jackets entered the season ranked, but promptly fell out of the rankings when the Jackets lost early in tournaments to unranked teams.
**TECH SPORTS FILE**

**Volleyball**
Georgia Tech 0, Virginia Tech 3
The Volleyball team beat the preseason ACC favorite two weeks ago when they topped Clemson, but they lost to Virginia Tech the following weekend. The Jackets are led by senior libero Michelle Kandell with 208 digs, senior middle hitter Callie Miller with 131 kills and senior outside hitter Talisa Kellogg with 129 kills. The Jackets hope to follow up on their success this weekend when they play Miami and Florida State at home.

**Swimming and Diving**
The Jackets’ swimming and diving team kicked off the season with wins at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida. Both men and women competed against FAU, while the women also defeated Florida Gulf Coast at the same meet. The Jackets will compete against Clemson in South Carolina and Florida State next weekend.

**Cross Country**
Third/Fourth Tennessee Invitational
Tech’s men’s cross country team has had mixed results in tournaments this year. The Jackets placed third at the Tennessee Invitational, while they finished seventeenth at the Roy Griak Invitational this past weekend. Likewise, the women finished fourth at Tennessee, but fourteenth at the Roy Griak Invitational.

**Golf**
Seventh Golfweek Preview Invitational
The No. 15 Yellow Jackets participated in the Golfweek Preview Invitational this past weekend. Tech finished seventh in the event and senior Cameron Tringale and junior Chesson Hadley finished in the top 20. The Jackets will participate in the Brickyard Intercollegiate in Macon, Georgia on October 11.

**Women’s Tennis**
The women’s tennis team started the season on a high note with wins over UGA players in the Georgia Tech Invitational. The women’s team returns four players from last year’s ITA National Indoors Championship team and brings in four of the top recruits in the country. The Jackets are participating in the ITA National Individuals this week in California where senior Amanda McDowell is the third seeded player in the singles draw.

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Georgia Tech (3-1) vs. Duke (3-1)

By Akshay Amaraneni, Assistant Sports Editor

Since the turn of the century, the Jackets are one of three ACC teams to lose to Duke and have the unfortunate tag of being the first conference team to lose to Duke this century. Other than 2003, the Jackets have not lost to Duke since the 1994 season.

Several current Jackets have experience against Duke. Senior defensive tackle Vance Walker and Darryl Richard have played against them each of the past two years, and sophomore defensive end Derrick Morgan and senior corner back Jahi Word-Daniels also played against them last year. Offensively, sophomore B-Back Jonathan Dwyer had 23 yards on 10 carries, red shirt sophomore wide receiver Cotrey Earls had 86 yards receiving and a touchdown and red shirt sophomore wide receiver Demaryius Thomas had 46 yards and a fumble recovery for a touchdown.

The Jackets will get a little help from Head Coach Paul Johnson’s old team as they will have had a chance to see how Duke defended Navy’s triple option earlier this season.

The Jackets have started their year with at least three wins in their first four games for the third time in the last four years and look to win four out of their first five for the first time since their Coastal Division winning season in 2006.

Spread: Tech (-14.5).
Prediction: Duke 14 - Tech 28

by Akshay Amaraneni, Assistant Sports Editor
Hockey wins first two of season

By Nishant Prasad
Contribution Writer

Tech’s ice hockey team opened the 2008-09 season this past weekend with wins over their first two opponents by a combined score of 25-3. The team, which plays Division III hockey and is a member of the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA), finished last season with a record of 11-17. This season began on a high note, as the team defeated Vanderbilt 6-2 on Friday and beat UNC-Charlotte 9-1 on Saturday.

More than marking the start of a new season, the games represented a new era in Tech hockey. Prior to the start of the Vanderbilt game, the players, coaches and fans observed a moment of silence in honor of former head coach Greg Stathis, who passed away in March. A beloved figure in the Tech hockey community, Stathis had led the team since the 1991-92 season.

“It was a very emotional first period [in the Vanderbilt game] for our team. This was the first time in 17 years that Tech hockey had played without Coach Stathis, so it was an emotional game for all of us,” said Assistant Coach Kenny “Surge” Day.

This season, the promising potential of the new players, combined with the experience and skill of the team’s 11 seniors, has led to a preseason ACHA No. 10 ranking in the region.

“Believe me, [Coach Stathis] would love to have this team,” said Head Coach Brian MCSparron. “He wouldn’t be getting any sleep. He’d be talking about hockey 24/7.”

Although Stathis’ influence on the team remains strong even after his death, the team has moved on under MCSparron, determined to honor Stathis’ memory by continuing to improve the program off the ice and by performing well on the ice.

“The transition has been seamless, and that’s what we were looking for in the new coach—someone who would make a very smooth transition. Coach McSparron has known [Stathis] for the past twenty years, and even played under him and coached with him, so it’s been very smooth,” said senior forward Drew Baker.

“Even though he’s gone, we’re going to make sure this program keeps on going strong,” McSparron said.

This year’s first game saw Tech take on the Vanderbilt Commodores last Friday night. The teams last met in the final game of last season, which saw Tech pull out a 3-2 win.

Big hits were common from the start, and three penalties were called during the first 1:02 of the game. As players from both teams fought for the puck in front of the Vanderbilt goal, freshman winger Ben Gardner pulled the puck out and scored 10:12 into the period to give Tech a 1-0 lead.

Shortly afterward, Park provided the highlight of the game when he scored Tech’s next two goals in a span of seven seconds. The first came 11:00 into the period, when he stole the puck and quickly scored. After the ensuing face-off at center ice, Park launched a slap shot into the net from a

Softball competes in scrimmages against Georgia State

By Randy Darnowsky
Staff Writer

The softball team is engaged in multiple scrimmages games throughout the fall. The games provide experience for the new freshmen players as well as extra practice for all players.

“I think we’re getting a lot of good experience for the freshmen. It’s their first taste of Division I softball,” said Head Coach Sharon Perkins.

“The purpose of fall games is to get freshmen experience at this kind of level and to bring our team together as a whole so we can get ready for the spring,” said senior first baseman Whitney Haller.

“I think the point of the fall games is just for us to get experience. We have six coming in, so it’s a bunch of us and to get us acclimated to the college experience. It’s to get us competition and for us to get experience,” said freshman outfielder Jessica Sinclair.

For the fall scrimmages, some of the rules are relaxed. For instance, players may take multiple participations, and the home team may bat an extra inning even though they are winning the game.

Last weekend, the team hosted Georgia State on Saturday and North Gaan Whitney Haller on Sunday. The first game against Georgia State featured stand-out offensive hits from both teams. Junior infielder Jennifer Yee hit two home-runs to boost the team’s score. Haller hit a home-run ball over the left-field fence and a multi-RBI hit to highlight the day.

“I think we did a pretty good job at making adjustments. They would go from a fast pitcher to a slow pitcher, and I think they did a pretty good job of making an adjustment.