**Volleyball** from page 24

The Jackets next possession lasted two plays as freshman backup quarterback Jaybo Shaw would be sacked on the first play and fumble on the second play. Carolina scored again.

Two drives later, with sophomore quarterback Josh Nesbitt back in the game, Dwyer would run up the middle untouched 85 yards for the end zone to avoid the shutout. The touchdown was the longest ever play allowed by North Carolina.

The Heels would score on a pass play to receiver Hakeem Nicks to cap the scoring at 28-7.

The Jackets have not lost two games in a row this season and look to avoid a losing streak Thursday against Miami at home at Bobby Dodd Stadium.

**UNC** from page 24

The Jackets faced a similar situation on fourth and four from the Tech 33. Like Tech they went for the first down, and North Carolina's QB Cameron Sexton was sacked for a seven-yard loss. On the ensuing drive the Jackets faced fourth and one from the UNC 38. Dwyer was stopped again at the line of scrimmage forcing the second turnover on downs.

UNC's offense would be held in check for the remainder of the first half. Tech's defense led by senior defensive linemen Vance Walker and Michael Johnson asserted themselves against North Carolina's offensive line. The Tar Heels were held to 27 yards of total offense for the rest of the half. Tech's offense, on the other hand, started to sustain drives deep into UNC territory. The first drive went 13 plays for 67 yards, all the way to the UNC 23-yard line where sophomore place kicker Scott Blair missed a 40-yard field goal. On the second drive, the Jackets offense stalled at the UNC 35 where Blair missed a 52-yard field goal wide right.

The game went back and forth in the second half until redshirt freshman A-back/returner Roddy Jones fumbled the punt that led to a UNC possession on the Tech 30 yard line. The Heels would score on the drive.

**Exhibition** from page 24

The game was close most of the way; Duke held a slight lead until late in the set, Tech fought back to take a 23-21 lead and won the set 25-23 to remain alive in the match.

In the fourth, a similar theme presented itself when Tech fell behind early. Down 12-8, Tech rallied back to take a lead, which they held until the Blue Devils tied the game at 19. Tech closed out the set with a 6-0 run, keyed by a tandem block by Hunter and junior middle hitter Brittany Roderick, and took the set 25-19 to tie the match.

In the final set, however, the Jackets could not recover from an early deficit. Duke jumped out of the gate and won easily, 15-9, to take the match.

“We came out flat tonight, but we played our hearts out...I was impressed with the tenacity that our team showed to take it to the fifth game,” Shymansky said.

Kandell had her second straight 20-dig game with 25 on the night, and sophomore setter Mary Ashley Tippins recorded 47 assists to go with 12 digs and five blocks.

Tech currently stands fourth in the ACC with a 10-5 conference record (and an 18-7 overall record), just one game behind conference co-leaders Duke, Clemson, and North Carolina. The team makes its final road trip of the season this weekend, traveling to Florida for two critical ACC matches, looking to gain ground in the race.

Tonight, Tech faces Miami, whose 21-5 record is the best over ACC matches, looking to gain ground in the race.

The Jackets have not lost two games in a row this season and look to avoid a losing streak Thursday against Miami at home at Bobby Dodd Stadium.
Lady Jackets shoot for continued growth

By Akshay Amaraneni, Assistant Sports Editor, and Steven Cappetta, Staff Writer

After making the NCAA Tournament in the last two seasons, the Jackets hope to build on their newfound glory as they take on stiff competition.

LINE-UP CHANGES

Last season, the women’s team lost four seniors who won more games in their four years than any other graduating class. Jill Ingram, Daphne Mitchell, Janie Mitchell and Chioma Nnamaka were part of Head Coach MaChelle Joseph’s first recruiting class at Tech and helped the program get back-to-back 20-win seasons and Tech’s first ever NCAA Tournament victory. Nnamaka was drafted in the second round (21st overall) of the WNBA draft by the San Antonio Silver Stars and soon after traded to the Atlanta Dream. She was selected higher than any other player in Tech history. To fill in the void of this lost talent, Tech, for the second straight season, has brought in a top-10 nationally ranked recruiting class. The five freshmen added to this year’s roster are LaQuananisha Adams, Mo Bennett, Sasha Goodlet, Chelsea Regins, and Metra Walthour. Several of the freshmen should make an immediate impact this season.

PROGRESS OF THE PROGRAM

Due to the success of women’s basketball the past five seasons under MaChelle Joseph, she was granted a four-year, $1.3 million extension earlier this year. Joseph has helped guide Tech to its best two seasons in school history and has consistently been able to bring in top recruiting classes. She has compiled an 84-66 record and guided the Jackets to a 22-10 record this past season, the most wins since Tech joined the ACC in 1979. With a young team coming back this year, Tech has great potential to be a contender and learn a lot from such a strong group of girls that left last season. Sophomore Alex Montgomery should have a big impact this year after having a standout freshman year and a solid 20 point, 8-9 shooting day for the Jackets in the exhibition last week.

OFFENSE

The Jackets lost their top two scorers from last season. Mitchell averaged 16.4 to lead the team, followed by Nnamaka at 14.8 points. Mitchell had the second highest shooting percentage at (.459) of players on the team with over 100 attempts, and Nnamaka had 92 three point baskets, almost three times as many as the next closest player. The Jackets also lost their floor leader and point guard Jill Engram, who led the team with 111 assists despite starting just seven games. As one of the youngest teams in the conference with 10 freshmen and sophomores, the Jackets look to replace the scoring with new talent.

DEFENSE

The Jackets team has lived and died by defense, a philosophy for many winning teams. Last year the Jackets held opponents to an average of 60.1 points per game and excluding two double overtime games and an early game against North Carolina, no one scored over 75 points on the Jackets’ defense. Tech also had a 191 point differential over opponents in the first half of all games last year (1061 – 870), but allowed over 1000 points in the second half of games (1014). In terms of margins, the Jackets led every one. Tech outscored their opponents by an average of 10.3 points per game and outrebounded their opponents by 1.9 rebounds per game.
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The Hurricanes are among several teams in the ACC that have depended on underclassmen for their success. While they are more balanced than Tech with just 53 underclassmen, the Hurricanes have depended on several for their success this season. The list includes freshman Quarterback Jacory Harris and freshman receiver/returner Travis Benjamin.

The Hurricanes played a game last night against Virginia Tech, but set up the important meeting with a win over then-division leader Virginia 24-17, in overtime on UVA’s home turf. The Canes trailed 17-10 at the half. But backup Harris came in to lead Miami to a touchdown with less than a minute left with a pass to receiver Laron Byrd. The play tied the game and allowed for Harris’s second touchdown pass to receiver Aldarius Johnson on the first drive of overtime. The Miami defense then stuffed Virginia running back Cedric Peerman and forced a fumble. Linebacker Romeo Davis recovered the fumble to preserve the win.

The Hurricanes are not the same dominant force they were in the 1990s or early 2000s, but with back-to-back defense-heavy recruiting classes, the Canes are improving each year. Former Tech offensive coordinator Patrick Nix, who served here from 2002-2006, coaches the Cane’s offense.

Miami ranks third in the conference in scoring offense (29.8 points per game), but ranks eighth in total offense (322.1 yards per game). Their defense also ranks third in the conference in total defense (286.9 yards per game) and fourth in rushing defense (109.9 yards per game).

Despite losing to UNC last weekend, the Jackets still have a chance to finish with a 10-win season. The last time the Jackets won 10 games was under former Head Coach George O’Leary and quarterback Joe Hamilton in 1998, when the Jackets shared the ACC title with Florida State and beat Notre Dame in the Gator Bowl.

The UNC game was probably the worst effort from all three phases of the game all year, but the Jackets have yet to lose two games in a row. Tech is fighting severely low depth issues because of a rash of injuries on the offensive line and because they have more freshmen and sophomores on their roster than any other team in the conference.

This game against Miami marks the fifth time the teams will play each other as ACC opponents. The Hurricanes took the first one in Atlanta in 2004, but the Jackets have won the last three including a 14-10 win in the Miami Orange Bowl in 2005 when the Canes were ranked No 3 in national polls and were on their way to an ACC championship game appearance.

The game will also be a white-out game. Made famous most recently by Penn State, the Athletic Association has tried to get the message out. SGA will also provide T-shirts for the 8000 students in attendance the night of the game. Tech plays Miami on Thursday, November 20 at 7:30 p.m.
Jackets fall to Tar Heels in N.C.

Tech suffered its third loss of the season and in ACC play to UNC last weekend in Chapel Hill. After the 28-7 loss to the Tar Heels, Tech (7-3, 4-3 in the ACC) fell to No. 4 in the Coastal Division, while UNC (7-2, 3-2 in the ACC) rose to a tie for the No. 1 spot in the Coastal Division, while UNC (7-2, 3-2 in the ACC) rose to a tie for the No. 1 spot in the Coastal Division. Tech is looking to find a guy that will step in and make some shots.

By David Akhigbe
Contributing Writer

Tech’s post players led the Jackets to a 35-21 win over Le Moyne last Friday at the Coliseum. Sophomore forward Gani Lawal and senior center Alade Aminu posted double-doubles to lead the team. Lawal led all scorers with 30 points and 12 rebounds. Aminu scored 17 with 12 rebounds and junior forward Zachery Peacock added 15 rebounds.

Sophomore point guard Maurice Miller had four assists and six points and the anticipated debut of freshman combo guard and McDonald’s All-American Iman Shumpert left the coach with something to be desired. Shumpert had just four points on 1-7 shooting, but did have eight assists. “He’s capable of better, he’s a good player but he’s capable of better,” said Head Coach Paul Hewitt.

Tech’s volleyball team, winners of six of their last seven matches heading into last weekend, split two five-set matches on the road. The team defeated Wake Forest 3-2 on Friday but fell short at Duke by the same score on Saturday. In each match, Tech dropped the first two sets before recovering to win sets three and four and reach the final set.

Against Wake, the Jackets got off to a fast start in the first set but allowed Wake to reach a 20-20 tie. After Tech recovered and took a 25-21 lead, the Demon Deacons, led by three points from sophomore Lauren McIntyre, rallied back to take the first set 26-24. Wake controlled the second set from the start, jumping out to a 13-5 lead. Tech fought back to narrow the deficit to 23-21, but Wake closed it out, winning 25-21 to open up a 2-0 lead in the match.

Tech looked to shore up its defense in the final three sets, focusing on containing Wake middle hitter Natalie Mullikin, who had keyed their attack with seven kills in the first two sets.

The third set was highly contested with 14 ties and four lead changes. With the score tied at 23, junior outside hitter Chrissy DeMichele notched two straight kills to win the third set.

“Both teams started off hot offensively, but we just couldn’t seem to turn the momentum until the very end of game three,” said Head Coach Bond Shymansky in a press release.

The3 Jackets capitalized on that momentum in the middle of the fourth set. Down 13-10, Tech reeled off nine straight points and roared to a 25-19 victory, tying the match and reaching the decisive fifth set. In that final set, Tech once again fell behind, this time by a score of 9-6, however, freshman Bailey Hunter’s kill and subsequent block started a 5-0 run that led to a 15-12 victory, giving Tech the win.

The excellent defensive effort held Wake’s Mullikin to a .000 hit percentage over the