Join the Technique.

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Tech’s baseball team will start the season No. 13 in the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association Poll. Three other ACC teams join the Jackets in the top 35 with North Carolina sitting at the top of the poll, Miami at No. 12, and Clemson at No. 26.

Golf signs two top recruits in Nov.

The men’s golf team signed two top recruits back in November. Seth Reeves of Duluth, who attends Peachtree Ridge High School, is the top ranked high school golfer in the state of Georgia. Bo Andrews of Raleigh, N.C. is the No. 2 senior golfer coming out of his home state.
Swimming splits matches against N.C. State

By Nishant Prasadh
Assistant Sports Editor

The men’s and women’s swim teams traveled to Raleigh to take on North Carolina State on Saturday in the team’s first competition since the ConocoPhillips U.S. Short Course Nationals in early December. Both the men’s and women’s competitions came down to the final race, and Tech earned a split: the men came from behind to win 124-118, while the women’s team lost 127-115.

The teams were very evenly matched; in eight of the thirteen events, one school won the men’s race while the other school took the women’s race. Tech took first place in both races in the 100-yard freestyle, won by sophomore Garrett Robberson (46.02 seconds) and junior Agatha Kwaniuk (51.39 seconds), and the 50-yard freestyle, which went to Kwaniuk (24.41 seconds) and senior Mauricio Souza (20.67 seconds). N.C. State swept first place in the 200-yard backstroke, the 500-yard freestyle, and the 200-yard breaststroke. The one-meter and three-meter diving events were splits as well, but Tech junior Hannah Krimm took both of the women’s dives (282.98, 323.40) while NC State’s Austin Hampton won both men’s events (325.50, 393.60). Hampton set a school record with his three-meter score of 393.60, beating the previous record by 27 points.

Tech had a number of notable individual performances in the competition. Robberson, in addition to winning the 100-yard freestyle, was on the first-place relay teams in the 400-yard medley and the 400-yard freestyle. Sophomore Travis Wagner was with Robberson on both relay teams and set a personal record of 1:40.87 in the 200-yard freestyle, though he finished in second place. Junior Gal Nevo took first place in the men’s 400-yard individual medley (3:59.71) and the 200-yard butterfly (1:51.77).

Both the men’s and women’s competitions remained undecided heading into the twenty-sixth and final event, the 400-yard freestyle relay. In the women’s event, N.C. State was able to secure the victory, as their top squad’s time of 3:29.64 eclipsed the 3:30.91 notched by Tech’s A-team of sophomore Sarah Bradby, junior Taylor Flynn, sophomore Katherine Locker, and freshman Keren Siebner. The Tech women needed a victory to have a chance, so even though the B-team of freshmen Heidi Hattenberg and Jesse Mason, sophomore Christine Chuang, and junior Jing Li came in third, the Wolfpack secured a win in the women’s competition.

The finish of the men’s relay was far closer. As with the women, the men’s team needed a win in the race to be able to win the competition, and they got that win—but only by a fraction of a second. The A-team of Robberson, Souza, freshman Nigel Plummer, and Wagner completed the relay with a time of 3:05.66, just five-hundredths of a second better than the 3:05.71 mark of N.C. State’s A-team.

“Robberson really pulled it out for us at the end...he was pushing the team all the way and was strong from start to finish,” said Head Coach Stu Wilson.

The team has three meets left before the ACC Championships begin in late February. Next week, both the men and women will travel to Blacksburg, Va. to take on UNC-Wilmington and host Virginia Tech, and on Jan. 31 they will conclude the regular season against Emory.
Track kicks off new year at Clemson, Kentucky

By Steven Cappetta
Staff Writer

Tech men’s and women’s track and field teams began their 2009 portion of the season of with the Clemson Invitational (Jan. 9-10) and the Kentucky Invitational (Jan 16-17). Last spring, the men’s team finished second place in the 2008 ACC Indoor Championships and returns 14 All-ACC performers. The women’s team reached a 2008 indoor national ranking as high as No. 22 and comes into the new year with 29 underclassmen.

On the first day of competition at the Clemson Invitational, senior Jerome Miller’s jump of 7 feet 4.25 inches set a new Tech indoor record and already qualified him for the 2009 NCAA Championships in the high jump. Miller held the previous record back from the 2007 indoor season and broke it at the Invitational by 1.75 inches. His jump was four inches higher than the next best mark that day. Because of the jump, Miller was the ACC Track and Field Co-Performer of the Week with Clemson’s Jacoby Ford.

Junior Alphonso Jordan also saw success during the meet placing first in both the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 8.09 seconds and triple jump with a distance of 51 feet, 2.75 inches while placing second in the long jump with a distance of 23 feet, 6.25 inches.

On the women’s squad, five freshmen made 2009 collegiate debuts. Freshman Bailey Wagner took first in the shot put with a throw of 46 feet, 10.25 inches, the second longest indoor throw in school history. Sophomore Janae Anderson won the 60-meter dash with a time of 7.39 seconds, which is the fastest time in the ACC so far this season.

At the Kentucky Invitational, the Jackets saw tough competition, facing 11 top-25 teams. Miller was the only Jacket to receive a first-place on the weekend with a jump at a mark of 6 feet 10.25 inches. Junior Tiffany Chavis was in a four-way tie in the high jump, but ended up receiving fourth place as she could not clear over 5 feet, 5.25 inches mark.

Wagner received a fourth place distance of 48 feet, 3.25 inches in the shot put, which was an improvement of about two inches from the week before. Jordan was the only other Jacket to place top five in the invitational with a fourth place finish in the long jump. Jordan jumped a distance of 23 feet 11.75 inches.

Tech will see more action today and into the weekend in Fayetteville, Ark. for the Razorback Invitational. The teams are preparing for the for the ACC Indoor Championships, which will be held in Blacksburg, Va. from Feb. 26 till Feb. 28. The Jackets will get a chance to test out the track at Virginia Tech next weekend, when they compete in the VT Elite Invitational.
Basketball woes continue

Jackets loses two in overtime against N.C. State, BC vs. NCS

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By Nishant Prasad
Assistant Sports Editor

The men’s basketball team suffered back-to-back overtime losses over the past week, falling 76-71 at North Carolina State on Saturday and losing an 80-76 heartbreaker at home against Boston College on Tuesday. Tech is now 9-9 for the season but remains winless in ACC play; the team has dropped all five of its conference games, three of which went to overtime.

The physical play of the N.C. State Wolfpack presented a new challenge for the Jackets. The game was very close for most of the first half; with five minutes left, Tech took the lead and built it to six points as halftime approached, but a late N.C. State push closed the gap to just one point, so Tech held a 35-34 lead after 20 minutes of play. A key factor for the Jackets was their three-point shooting; senior guard Lewis Clinch hit two three-pointers in the first five minutes, and Tech put up more long-distance shots than usual while struggling to get the ball into the lower post.

"[N.C. State] stepped up and became physical, and we didn’t respond," said Head Coach Paul Hewitt in a press release.

The second half saw the teams trade leads. N.C. State center Ben McCauley scored six straight points—four on free throws—to give his team a 47-42 lead. Tech quickly battled back, and after leading 55-54, the Jackets put together nine straight points and held a ten-point lead with three minutes left in the game. However, McCauley and the Wolfpack tied the game at 67 with under a minute left to force overtime. With the game tied at 69 and just over three minutes left in the extra period, Costner committed his fifth foul and was out of the game. His replacement, Dennis Horner, would guide the Jackets to victory, Horner scored six of his team’s last seven points and added two rebounds as Tech fell by the final score of 76-71.

The Jackets finished the game with a meager field goal percentage of 35.8, but they shot 55.6 from three-point range, led by Clinch’s 6-for-10 performance. Sophomore forward Gani Lawal notched a double-double with 11 points and 10 rebounds, and freshman guard Iman Shumpert led the Jackets with 16 points in their fifth ACC loss.

Women’s basketball falls to FSU

The No. 24 Yellow Jackets came up short last Sunday on a road trip at Florida State, 59-49.

"It was a battle from start to finish. We played well in spurts but you can’t take a play off because when you do, it seems like the other team goes on a 5-0 run," said Head Coach MaChelle Joseph in an interview with Ramblinwreck.com.

Sophomore guard Alex Montgomery earned her fourth double-double of the season, leading the Jackets in both points and rebounds picking up 14 and 13 respectively. Senior guard Jacqua Williams also scored 12 points, but struggled with fouls.

"Jacqua is our head to our team’s body… All year long she has made the big shots for us but tonight she was limited," Joseph said.

Sophomore guard Deja Foster added eight points to the Jackets’ total offense. Sophomore guard Iasia Hemingway also earned six rebounds in the game.

The Jackets shot over forty percent from the field in the first half and went into the half even with the Seminoles at 28 points apiece. But the Jackets shooting fell off in second half, shooting 9-33 from the field. FSU was also able to out block the Jackets, picking up nine to the Jackets three.

The Jackets struggled with fouls, racking up 22 for the game. The Seminoles were able to keep theirs at bay, only committing 12. As a result, Florida State shot 14 more free throws than Tech in the second half. The Seminoles also had an advantage on boards over the Jackets, picking up five more rebounds than the Jackets.

Tech hosted No. 2 North Carolina on Thursday night, at time of release no press results were not available. Tech next travels up to Durham, N.C. to take on the No. 4 Blue Devils of Duke. The Jackets will close out the month of January back at home next Thursday against Miami.