continued to build their lead. With 8:18 left in the first half, Peacocks missed a layup only to have Aminu get the offensive board, and Aminu also missed the put-back. Sophomore guard Lance Storrs was able to jump up and get the rebound, but his put-back also missed wide of the mark as Tech was unable to benefit from two offensive rebounds under the basket.

“It wasn’t one of our better efforts. . .we got some steals and just missed some easy baskets around the lane, and [we] didn’t capitalize,” Hewitt said.

As the final seconds ticked off the first half game clock, the Jackets were down eleven points, 44-33.

Tech came out to start the second half with a jolt of energy as their pressing, full court defense caused a State turnover. The Jackets were able to capitalize off of this one as Clinch passed inside to Lawal, who made a strong move toward the basket and ended the play with a dunk.

On the following possession, freshman guard Moe Miller was able to seize another turnover, and, on the fast break, made a double clutch move under the basket to shed his defender and sink the layup, cutting the lead to only three points at 47-44. But the Jackets never could get closer than this at N.C. State. Tech was continuously able to out-rebound Tech and consistently get to the foul line.

N.C. State managed to keep Tech’s leading scorer and rebounder in check as strong forward Gani Lawal was 3-8 from the floor, with a total of seven points and three rebounds. “Foul trouble certainly took him out of it. . .usually if he stays out of foul trouble, he’ll figure it out as he goes along. But he picked up those two fouls, and we had to go offense-defense with him, and he couldn’t really get a rhythm,” Hewitt said.

Lawal ended the game having played a total of twenty-two minutes.

The story of the game for the Wolfpack was the play of sophomore forward Tracy Smith, who was continually able to dominate inside with Lawal’s absence from the floor. Smith ended the game with 18 points and 10 rebounds in State’s win.

One bright spot for Tech on the day was the play of the dynamic true freshman guard Iman Shumpert, who led the Jackets in scoring with 14 points.

“Iman has been shooting it well. . .he kind of took it upon himself to try to get us ignited. . .That’s what you need, and that’s why I think he’s got a chance to be a really good player, because he doesn’t mind stepping up and putting himself on the line,” Hewitt said.

N.C. State never could get closer than only three points at 47-44. But the Jackets were continually able to dominate more forward Tracy Smith, who’s what you need, and that’s why I think he’s got a chance to be a really good player, because he doesn’t mind stepping up and putting himself on the line,” Hewitt said.
DIAMOND DAYS UPON US:
2009 Baseball team eyes first trip to Omaha since 2006

Nishant Prasad
Assistant Sports Editor

Over the past few months, the biggest news related to Tech baseball has surrounded two alumni—first baseman Mark Teixeira, who signed a $184 million contract with the New York Yankees, and catcher Matt Wieters, a highly touted prospect expected to shine in his rookie season with the Baltimore Orioles.

The news has overshadowed the fact that the 2009 Jackets squad has earned a No. 12 preseason national ranking and looks as strong as any team in recent memory. On Friday night, they will set out to defend their ranking as the season begins with a three-game set against Lipscomb.

Tech posted a strong record of 41-21 last season, but the season was far from easy. In early April, the team learned of the sudden and shocking death of left-handed reliever Michael Hutts; the loss of a teammate and friend caused the team to struggle for several games, but Tech managed to right the ship in time for the ACC Tournament. However, they fell short in the conference tourney, and the season ended on a bitter note when the Jackets fell to Georgia in the championship game of the NCAA Athens regional.

This year's team seems to have improved on all fronts from the 2008 squad. There have been key losses, including the top two weekend starting pitchers and two everyday position players, but the Jackets have the personnel to replace them without missing a beat. Depth is a major strength of this Jackets squad, and it will allow Head Coach Danny Hall to ease in the incoming freshmen—especially in the lineup—rather than having to press them into full-time roles right away.

With most of last season's core intact and a year older, Tech is poised to return to the top of the ACC, but that goal will not be easy to reach. Within the ACC alone, two teams—North Carolina and Florida State—are in the national top 10 ahead of Tech, and Miami is close behind at No. 14.

Still, Hall believes that most, if not all, of the other top ACC teams have lost enough talent that they are vulnerable this year. He considers winning the conference, or at least staying near the top of the standings, to be a priority for his team. “I think if you look at college baseball [overall] last year, the teams that did well in their conferences—the teams that finished 1-3 or 1-4 hosted regionals, so I think the key for us is to try to do everything we can to finish as high as we can in the league, and hopefully win the league, because that’s going to increase [our] chances of hosting a regional,” Hall said at Wednesday’s practice.

Ultimately, though, the team’s objective remains the same as always. “Our number one goal is to win every game we play,” Hall said.
The lineup will still be a clear strength for the Jackets in 2009, both in talent and in depth. In 2008 the lineup revolved around power, as Tech's total of 92 home runs ranked 13th in the nation, and this year the team may be even better on that front. Four of the five players who hit 10 home runs last season will return in 2009. Tech will, however, miss the contributions of leadoff hitter and outfilder Charlie Blackmon, who led the team with a .396 average and 25 steals and was second with a 1.035 OPS, and third baseman Brad Felix, a defensive star who was also second on the team with 14 home runs and 62 RBIs.

The heart of the order is highlighted by sophomore shortstop Derek Dietrich, who last year won NCBCA Freshman Hitter of the Year honors. Dietrich started all 62 games for Tech and led the team in RBIs (66), walks (26), and total bases (141, tied with Blackmon). Returning along with Dietrich will be senior Luke Murton, who had 12 homers and a team-high 25 doubles; junior Tony Plagman, a strong defensive first baseman who also led the team with 16 homers; and senior catcher Jason Haniger, whose performance as a first-time starter last season has led Tech to expect big things from him. Other positions seem to be locked in. Sophomore Thomas Nichols will be the usual second baseman, and junior Patrick Long will see time there and at third base; both will also contribute as relief pitchers. Junior Jeff Rowland will continue to start in center field and will be the team's primary leadoff hitter. The other outfield positions appear to be a bit more fluid. The batting order itself is not set in stone; aside from Rowland as leadoff, the rest of the order could vary daily.

Sophomore right-hander Brandon Cumpton, who led all Tech relievers with 46.1 innings pitched last season, will take over the closer role, but Hall indicated that Robinson may also see opportunities to close out games. The strength of the bullpen lies in left-handed relief. Sophomore Zach Breswer was the team's primary specialist last season, and this year he will have help from freshmen Jake Davies and Jed Bradley, the latter of whom Hall is considering as a midweek starter. For right-handed relief, aside from Pope and Robinson, the Jacks will look to a handful of part-time position players. Hall mentioned that junior Patrick Long and sophomore Thomas Nichols, both of whom will start at second base often, will see time in the bullpen.

The coach wants to take advantage of the team’s stellar depth at every position to ensure he is starting the best lineup possible. “A lot of these guys have worked hard, and they deserve a chance to play, and hopefully after the first couple weeks of play we’ll have a better idea of who can do what and how we need to attack the ACC,” Hall said. “I could literally play almost an entire left-handed lineup...I could put three left-handed hitting outfielders out there [and] I could DH someone left-handed, and I’m probably going to do that, particularly early,” he said in reference to the team’s large number of left-handed hitters.

With the majority of the lineup returning, experience should not be an issue, and Hall will be able to slowly work his incoming freshmen into the system. The coach mentioned that power-hitting corner infielder Matt Skole will see a lot of time at third base, and that slick-fielding Connor Winn will be a late-game defensive replacement.

The 2009 starting rotation will be without a pair of stalwarts after two would-be seniors, left-hander David Duncan and right-hander Eddie Burns, were taken in the 2008 MLB Draft. However, the outlook is still good for Tech’s pitching staff. Sophomore right-hander Deck McGuire takes over on the top of the weekend rotation after a stellar freshman campaign as the midweek starter; in 13 starts and four relief appearances, the hard-throwing McGuire led the team with a 3.46 ERA and held opposing hitters to a .240 batting average. Behind him is junior right-hander Zach Von Tersch, who worked out of the bullpen as a freshman before becoming the team’s closers last season and combined for 15 saves, are gone, he allowed opposing batters to hit .325 against him; however, he did make five starts last season, performing well in each one.

Hall has not definitively decided who will be the midweek starters, but he expects that two hard-throwing sophomores, right-handers Kevin Jacob and Andrew Robinson, will be in the mix. The bullpen has potential this year, but inexperience may present a challenge, as only one reliever is not a freshman or sophomore. Right-handers Brad Russell and Chris Hicks, who served as the team’s closers last season and combined for 15 saves, are gone. Hard-throwing freshman right-hander Mark Pope will make up the closer role, but Hall indicated that Robinson may also see opportunities to close out games.

The strength of the bullpen lies in left-handed relief. Sophomore Zach Breswer was the team’s primary specialist last season, and this year he will have help from freshmen Jake Davies and Jed Bradley, the latter of whom Hall is considering as a midweek starter. For right-handed relief, aside from Pope and Robinson, the Jacks will look to a handful of part-time position players. Hall mentioned that junior Patrick Long and sophomore Thomas Nichols, both of whom will start at second base often, will see time in the bullpen.

### 2009 Baseball Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jed Bradley</td>
<td>LHP</td>
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### Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper and Mardi Gras Party

**Tuesday, February 25**

6:00 – 8:00 PM

**Wesley Foundation**

209 Fourth Street

**Ash Wednesday Services**

**Wednesday, February 25**

**Prayer Service 7:00 AM**

Lutheran Center – 199 5th Street

**Worship Service 6:00 PM**

Wesley Foundation – 183 4th Street

**Ash Wednesday**

### Wes Best Wanted

Potential to make $800

[www.nique.net](http://www.nique.net)
Softball comes up a game short in Lipton Invitational

By Matt Hoffman
Sports Editor

Tech’s Softball team fell just one game short of winning the Lipton Invitational in Gainesville, Fla. over the weekend, beating Florida Atlantic, South Alabama and Texas Tech, before falling to No. 2 Florida in the championship game. The Jackets now sit at 6-2 for the season.

Tech 13 - Florida Atlantic 2

In the first game, the Jackets were able to roll by Florida Atlanti-
cic, clipping the Owls 13-2 in five innings. Sophomore pitcher Kris-
ten Adams picked up her third win of the season. Adkins gave up just three hits and one run in four innings of work and held Florida Atlantic to only 17 at-bats. Fresh-
man pitcher Jessica Coan came in for the fifth to close out the game, giving up the second run of the game for the Owls.

Senior outfielder Blair Shi-
mandle led off the game with a single up the middle. After senior infielder Christy Jones pulled off a sacrifice bunt to move Shimandle to second, senior first baseman Whitney Haller homered, picking up the first two Tech runs of the game.

Freshman shortstop Kelsi Weseman would score later in the inn-
ing. Sophomore catcher Jessica Weaver then singled down the right-field line. Freshman infield-
er Shannon Bear came in to pinch run for Weaver. After Bear stole second and Adkins walked, John-
son hit a double into left center off of the first pitch to knock in two runs for the Jackets and break the stalemate.

Two batters later, Jones sin-
gled, allowing Adkins to score. Haller’s single during the next at-
bat brought in Johnson for the fi-
nal of four runs for the Jackets in the second.

While South Alabama was able to score one run in each of the next two innings, it was not enough as the Jackets added one more run in the fifth to end the game with a three run lead.

Jackets lead Tech with three hits and Johnson’s two RBIs in the second were the most by any Tech player for the game. Different jackets scored all live of the runs.

Tech 8 - Texas Tech 1

In their third game of the invi-
national, the Jackets beat the Red Raiders from Texas Tech, 8-1. This was the first time in the 22-
year history of Tech softball that the Jackets had ever taken on the Red Raiders.

Adkins got the win from the circle for the Jackets, pitching a complete game. The sophomore gave up only seven hits and one run. Adkins also notched two

The Alvin M. Ferst Leadership & Entrepreneur Award

We are pleased to announce the availability of The Alvin M. Ferst Leadership and Entrepreneur Award for 2009. This $2500 award goes to a junior or senior with at least a 2.5 GPA who have demonstrated extraordinary leadership and/or entrepreneurial skills while at Tech.

The award has been established by Charlotte Ferst to honor her husband, Alvin, who graduated from Georgia Tech in 1943. Alvin Ferst has been a member of the Alumni Association Board and the Georgia Tech Foundation for decades. The Ferst family name has a long tradition on the Georgia Tech campus and the scholarship will assure their involvement in perpetuity.

Please distribute this announcement and application to faculty, staff, and students who may wish to nominate someone for this award. Applications need to reach the Office of Student Affairs by February 23, 2009.

Qualities of the Ideal Candidate

The ideal candidate would be a person of vision; a driving force to create a business or organization; an inspiration to others to reach their potential; a leader with the ability to anticipate future needs; an optimist about finding solutions; one who generates support of the dream; and a man or woman of character who says, “why not, not "why”.

The Alvin M. Ferst Leadership and Entrepreneur Award for 2009 will be presented at the Student Honors Luncheon on April 23, 2009, 11:00am to 1:00pm, in the Student Center Ballroom.

i agree gingers are hot. do the curtains match the drapes? G to the RAM whip it out!!!!!!!
Fitted sheets or DEATH! i won’t be here next friday when the slivers come out - OH NOOOOO when nobody is looking, I SNIFF MY ARMPITS! roses are red, some are thorny, violet are blue, together we’re...
corny
Is it the little v that makes her so sexy or is it just her shoes? seriously. who steals a pasta strainer and a ladle? Is CS TA michael single!?! All in favor of the Dead Fish Society say Aye. “Aye”. Courtney stop sleeping around on our floor! Hannah used to prey on candidates but now she’s found herself a wheel
I wish I could manifest a personality disorder to escape this stu-
pid school...
Saul, you rock at Skate 2.
If you’re the only finalist, doesn’t that mean you WON the con-
test!!
So... How is George P. ’Bud’ dell our next president?!? To everyone complaining about the death of Ruckus, try Spiral-
frog. It’s about the same thing (rip o
Never the HELL to THE HEAVEN. in my roomate secretly calling me a prat on Valentine’s Day. Bitch...
...oh and trying for yourself for once.
Gerrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr
Women’s Basketball falls to UNC, 73-50

After upsetting the then No. 2 Tar Heels in Atlanta on Jan. 22, Tech’s women’s basketball team was unable to top No. 8 North Carolina in Chapel Hill on Sunday. The Jackets kept pace for the first half as the game was tied with only 5:50 left before halftime. But UNC pulled away in the second half, building a double digit lead less than minutes into the half. Freshman center Sasha Goodlett led the Jackets with 14 points.

Favors named McDonald’s All-American

Senior center for South Atlanta High School, Derrick Favors was named a McDonald’s All-American on Wednesday. Favors, who in January gave a verbal commitment to attend Tech next year, is one of the most highly rated recruits coming out of high school this year. Provided everything pans out, Favors will be the centerpiece of one of the most highly rated Tech recruiting classes. Others in the class include point guard Mfon Udofia and power forward Kammeon Holsey.

Mark Teixeira discusses his half-million dollar endowment with the media. The fund will sponsor an annual baseball scholarship.

SPORTS SHORTS

Teixeira endows scholarship

By Randy Darnowsky
Staff Writer

Former all-star slugger for Tech and current stand-out in Major League Baseball Mark Teixeira established the Mark C. Teixeira Athletic Scholarship Fund at Georgia Tech last Wednesday. The half-million dollar scholarship endowment will fund an annual scholarship for a Tech baseball player.

“Tech has always been a special place for me, and I have always welcomed the opportunity to help out the baseball program in any way possible. I was very blessed to receive a scholarship,” said Mark Teixeira, Tech alum.

While Teixeira played for the Jackets from 1999 to 2001 he had a .409 batting average with 36 homers and 165 RBI during his three-year stint. He was led by the long-time coach Danny Hall.

Teixeira was also named the ACC Rookie of the Year in 1999, and won the Dick Howser Trophy in 2000 for being named the National Player of the Year.

“The fact that he is going to endow a scholarship in his name for Georgia Tech baseball just shows the level of commitment and pride that he takes not only in our program, but in Georgia Tech. We are very thankful that he has done this and appreciate the support that he has given our program throughout the years,” said Danny Hall, coach of the Jackets.

Furthermore, Teixeira was selected fifth in the 2001 draft. With multiple years in the majors for the Rangers, Braves and Yankees, he has won a couple of Silver Slagger and Golden Glove Awards.

“Danny, as you all know, is the winningest coach in Georgia Tech baseball history. He has continuously put teams on the field from year to year that have the brought great pride to Georgia Tech and continues to be a real treasure - a guy that we love working with on a daily basis,” said Wayne Hogan, Associate Director of Athletics.
Men’s Basketball loses in two ACC games

By John Anderson
Contributing Writer

Tech’s basketball team came up short for the second time in conference play for North Carolina State, 86-65, who gave the Jackets their worst loss since the 2005-06 season. Tech, now 1-10 in ACC play, stayed within striking distance for most of the game on Saturday at Alexander Memorial Coliseum, but couldn’t hold on as they lost control in the final minutes.

Despite improving on past weaknesses, the large amount of turnovers, only losing the turnover battle by five, the Jackets were still unable to pull out a win due to their poor field goal percentage and lack of ability to get to the foul line. The Jackets shot just under 39 percent from the floor for the game, while the Wolfpack managed to shoot over 60 percent for the game. N.C. State also had 29 attempts from the free-throw line, in comparison to Tech’s 13.

The Jackets quickly came out of the gate, taking an 11-5 lead after sophomore forward Alade Aminu blocked State sophomore forward Tracy Smith’s jumper, passed ahead to the freshman sensation Iman Shumpert, and watched as Shumpert drained a three-point shot from near the top of the arc. The lead, however, didn’t stand for long as N.C. State quickly began to capitalize on Tech’s mistakes.

“I thought after starting the game with a lot of energy, we missed some easy baskets and had some opportunities that we really should’ve cashed in on,” said Head Coach Paul Hewitt. Tech continued to keep it close early in the first half with exceptional ball movement. The Wolfpack was struggling to defense rhythm, continually having to chase the ball back around the arc. This allowed junior strong forward Zachery Peacock to have room inside to seize an offensive rebound and put the ball back in the air for an easy layup with 10:18 to go in the first half. But this strong offensive play was negated on the very next possession as State freshman guard C.J. Williams beat everyone down the floor to get a wide open look and drain a three-pointer.

The Jackets were struggling to make the easy baskets close to the rim that they had grown accustomed to early on in the season, and State

Women’s tennis falls short at ITA Indoors

By Steven Cappetta
Staff Writer

The No. 7 Tech women’s tennis team went back in action last Friday as they traveled to Wisconsin for the 2009 ITA National Women’s Indoor Championships. In Tech’s first match of the tournament, they faced No. 13 Fresno State. The Bulldogs struck first as they swept doubles and received the first point in the match. In singles play, freshman Irina Falconi won the first point for the Jackets to tie up the match score with her win over Melanie Gloria 6-1, 6-3. Falconi took the reins at the number one spot on the lineup and performed successfully as junior Amanda McDowell was not feeling well while suffering from a virus. Sophomore Sasha Krupina gave Tech the lead at the No. 5 position over Laura Pola after a third set, 6-2, 3-6, 6-4 win. Fresno State then jumped ahead 3-2 as they won the next two matches against McDowell and senior Chrsityn Stripling. Sophomore Noelle Hickey took the next match 6-4, 6-3, and freshman Viet Ha Ngo took the final match, 6-1, in the last set to secure the Jackets’ win over Fresno State with a close 4-3 final score.

On Valentine’s Day, the Jackets faced a tough No. 2 California. They came out strong and swept all three doubles matches. The Golden Bears took a commanding 3-0 lead in singles as Claire Icincas defeated Hickey 6-3, 6-3, and Falconi dropped her match to Jana Juricova 6-3, 7-5. Ngo won her second match on the weekend and kept Tech still in the match with her win over Marion Ravelojaona 7-5, 6-4. McDowell’s win at the top spot over No. 13 Marina Cossou 6-0, 6-3, helped close in on California’s lead of 3-2.

The Golden Bears ended Tech’s hope of comeback when Mari Anderson defeated Stripling 6-1, 6-4 and handed the girls their first loss of the season. The loss ended Tech’s hope of winning the ITA National Indoor Championship three years in a row. The match ended 5-2 after Krupina lost her match shortly after in a tiebreaker 6-0, 5-7, 10-6. Even with the loss against California, the Jackets travel to Wisconsin for the ITA National Indoor Championships falling in the second match.

See State, page 27

Women’s tennis falls short at ITA Indoors

By Steven Cappetta
Staff Writer

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See State, page 27