

Hockey from page 31

as Senior Night for the players, as the team's graduating members were recognized in a pre-game ceremony. Senior winger Tom Porter notched a hat trick, and senior Drew Baker, defenseman B.J. Stapleton, and center Christian Gattung each recorded an assist as the Jackets rolled to a 9-5 victory.

With the win, the Jackets also secured the No. 2 in the final rankings for the South region, resulting in an automatic bid to the 16-team ACHA Division III tournament. Their first-round battle against the Grand Valley State Lakers was a tight one from start to finish, as the score was tied 0-0 after one period and 1-1 after two. However, the Lakers took advantage of a late power play by scoring the go-ahead goal with four minutes left, and they held on to win the opening-round game 3-2, ending Tech's hopes of a national championship.

"GVS was the hottest team in the tourney coming in... This was a very fast and clean game that could have gone our way, but it wasn't meant to be. I was very proud of our boys for hanging in with this very difficult opening team," McSparron said.

After the disappointing loss, the team came out somewhat flat on day two against the University of Albany, and that proved costly. While the Jackets were able to recover from an early four-goal deficit, they ultimately could not keep up, and the result was a 9-4 loss.

Despite the rough start, the Tech players were determined to salvage the tournament, and they came ready to play in Friday's game against Penn State-Brandywine. The Jackets were in command early on as they built a 4-1 lead through two periods, but Penn State fought back in the third to tie the game. The game went to overtime, and Tech recovered to win its first tournament game 5-4 on a Brendan O'Leary

goal just 90 seconds in.

The final game pitted them against the College of the Canyons, and Tech jumped out of the gate with three goals in the first four minutes. The Jackets began to relax defensively, and as a result they allowed a last-second goal to end the opening period. The late goal sparked Tech's offense to life, and the game quickly became a shootout. The teams combined for seven goals in the second period and five in the third, and powered by freshman Ryan Fritz's hat trick, Tech managed to pull out a 9-7 victory to break even for the tournament.

With the conclusion of the National Championships, one of Tech hockey's most remarkable seasons ever came to an end. This team set out to honor the memory of Greg Stathis, their long-time coach who passed away last March, by delivering on the ice, and they did just that.

"As the president of this club when he passed, I felt a huge burden to make sure this club

went on in a way that he would be proud of. At the beginning of the season, I told everyone this was the most important year in the club's 35-year history, and we made it one of the best. We accomplished every goal we set out to achieve at the start, which was to win Savannah, sweep UGA, and make it to Nationals, and we won three tournaments along the way," Baker said.

In winning 24 games against only four losses, the team utilized a fast-paced attack to routinely put on a show for everyone in attendance, scoring six or more goals in seventeen different games. Still, the offensive firepower would not have been enough to carry the team without the superior goaltending of Lucas. The sophomore was stellar throughout the season and led all starting Division III goalies in goals-against average. He held opponents to two or fewer goals 14 times, including three shutouts, and he even played through the flu to help Tech complete the season sweep of Georgia

in January.

"Every good hockey team has great goaltending, and we had just that... We had great team defense, but we really couldn't have had the success we had without [Lucas]. He sets a great example with his work ethic and dedication. He was a first team All-American for the whole ACHA this season, and although it's not NCAA, it's something Georgia Tech should be very proud of," Baker said.

The team received a huge spark from a talented group of freshmen, who were integral to the team's success from start to finish. Among the notable first-year stars were winger Albert Park, who scored two goals in each of the team's first two games, and center Ryan Fritz, who led the team in points for the season. However, equally important—if not more so—was the wealth of experience on the team, led by the seven seniors.

"I've never been on a team that has had as much poise as this one. In past years, when we would get

scored on, the whole team would get down and they would score more quick goals. This year I can't even count the number times we would score the next shift after an opponent's goal. It's a sign of sticking together as a team, and I think having senior leadership was the source of that," Baker said.

The seven seniors will be missed, and along with them, Tech will be losing another key member of its coaching staff this offseason—but for much happier reasons. Assistant Coach Kenny "Sarge" Day announced his retirement from the staff after 10 seasons behind the bench, though he does plan to continue his role as the ACHA Division III South regional coordinator. In a message posted on the hockey team's website, Day thanked the players he worked with over the years and recalled some of his favorite memories, including Tech's victory over Georgia in the 2009 Savannah Hockey Classic.

While reaching the national achievement for the players, it was clear that they considered the highlight of this season to be winning the Classic in January. That tournament had always been Stathis's favorite event of the year, but Tech came up short in each of his final five seasons—a span that included a streak of four consecutive Georgia victories. This year's team made it their mission to take back the Thrasher Cup, as the victor's trophy is known; they did so in dominating fashion, defeating Florida State and Georgia by a combined score of 21-3.

"Before the 3rd period of the championship game, I told everyone, 'If you knew Greg Stathis, you know he is watching right now'... Winning that weekend with his family there, it was just unbelievable. I'll never forget that night for the rest of my life. As a graduating senior, I couldn't have dreamed of a better 2008-2009 season," Baker said.



Photo by Doug Kim / Student Publications

Tom Porter handles the puck during a game at the Ice Forum. Porter had a hat trick on Senior Night.

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Basketball from page 32

for the game, scoring 20 points and posting a team-high 14 rebounds. It was Lawal's fifteenth double-double of the season. Freshman guard Iman Shumpert also reached double-digit points with 11.

After the Tigers got the initial basket, the Jackets went on a 10-0 scoring run to take an eight-point lead. From there it was a back-and-forth battle between the teams, with seven ties and eight lead changes occurring throughout the half. The game went into halftime all tied up at 39.

Tech opened the second half with an 8-0 run and maintained a comfortable lead for most of the second half, but Clemson nearly came back in the last four minutes.

While the Jackets were up by 13 with 4:02 left to play, the Tigers managed to trim the lead down to just four with 0:49 left on the clock. After a brief scoring drought, Shumpert hit two free throws to make it a six-point game with 12 seconds left, but Clemson's Andre Young sprinted down the court to hit a three, making it a one-possession game with just seven seconds on the clock. Tech inbounded the ball successfully, and Clinch hit two free throws to seal the game.

"We handled their pressure

all year really well. Their pressure didn't beat us when we played up at their place and at our place. We didn't turn the ball over there. In the first game, [Terrence] Oglesby made five threes - that was the difference in the game," Hewitt said.

Unlike the Jackets' first game of the ACC Tournament, Tech failed to pull out the victory at the end of a close game against Florida State. With the loss to Seminoles, Tech fell to 6-9 overall in the ACC Tournament during Hewitt's tenure.

"I give the seniors a lot of credit. This is a tough way to spend your senior year, but they continued to come out and play hard and provide good leadership for our guys. It is one of those seasons that is tough to explain, but at the same time you do recognize that these guys have a lot of character to continue to battle and play hard. They just gave a great effort every day," Hewitt said.

Clinch led the Jackets with 25 points on 9-for-23 shooting from the field, including a 7-for-18 performance from behind the arc. Lawal and sophomore point guard Moe Miller each picked up 11 points in the game; Lawal led the team in rebounds with seven, and Miller also had five assists in the season finale.

In contrast to the Clemson game, Tech picked up the first basket and Florida State followed

with an 8-0 run to take a six-point lead. With Florida State up by nine with 11:36 to play in the first half, the Jackets began to mount a comeback with Lawal leading the way. The Jackets scored nine straight points, eight of which came from Lawal, to tie the game at 15 with 8:00 to play. The Jackets fell behind before the end of the half as Florida State built a double-digit lead with just over a minute left, but Tech recovered and went into halftime trailing the Seminoles by six.

While the Jackets shot below 35 percent from the field in the first half, Florida State shot well over the 50 percent mark. Goals from behind the arc were comparable for both teams as Tech shot three-for-nine from three point range, while the Seminoles managed two-for-eight.

Florida State maintained control of the game for the majority of the second half, but going into the last two minutes, the Seminoles had only a three point lead. Junior forward Zach Peacock made two free throws with 1:34 left to play to cut the lead down to one. Peacock then capitalized off of a FSU turnover to make a layup, giving the Jackets a 62-61 lead—their first lead since the early minutes of the game—with 0:29 to play. But Florida State was not done; with seven seconds left, sophomore FSU guard Derwin Kitchen

made a layup and picked up the foul. Kitchen made his free throw to give the Seminoles a two point of 64-62, and that would become the final score after Shumpert was unable to make a last-second shot from the foul line.

"We just wanted to run a back screen on the ball. In both of these games, Iman Shumpert had a lot of success getting into the high paint area and either getting fouled or making the shot. When he took it, I thought for a second that Zachery [Peacock] was open behind him for a kick out, but he wasn't. [Jordan] DeMercy honored him and stayed with him. He got a good look, but that's something where in both games Iman had a lot of success getting to the high lane," Hewitt said.

"I was willing to do whatever it takes for my team to get to the next game. [Florida State] did a

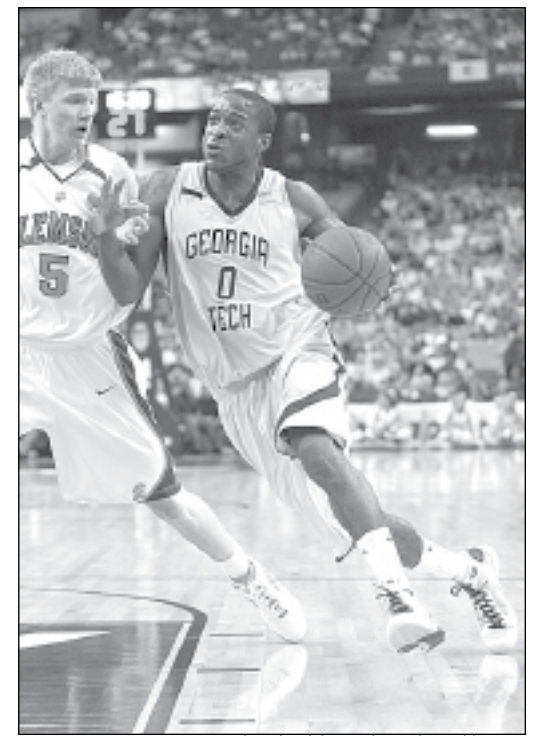


Photo by Blake Israel / Student Publications

Tech guard Lewis Clinch drives towards the basket during the first round of the ACC Tournament.

great job defending me this game, but I give a lot of credit to my team as well for getting me open and getting me some great looks. Our guys played hard. I wish all of the younger guys the best of luck next year; I think they have a bright future for this program and staff," Clinch said.

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Happy April Fool's Day from the Technique!

Tennis struggles against nation's top teams

By John Anderson
Contributing Writer

The Bill Moore Tennis Center was standing room only on Friday Feb. 27 as the men's tennis team lost to archrival No. 3 University of Georgia, 7-0. The score however does not show the true closeness of the match.

The Jackets had a quick start to the day when the tandem of sophomore Doug Kenny and

freshman Kevin King, playing in the second doubles spot, got an early break in their doubles match against Christian Vitulli and Josh Varela to take a 6-3 lead in the eight game pro-set. The lead, however, did not last for the Jackets, as Georgia was able to break back to even the set. The set saw three more breaks before the Bulldogs finally prevailed 9-7.

Over on court one, in the No. 1 doubles spot, the breaks were

not as easy to come by. Tech's sophomore Guillermo Gomez and sophomore Ryan Smith were battling with one of the nation's top-ranked doubles team, Georgia's Nate Schnugg and Jamie Hunt. The Jackets' tandem hung toe-to-toe with Georgia, ending the set at eight games apiece and forcing the seven point tiebreaker. It was a fast-paced tiebreaker as both teams attacked the net on their serve, keeping the points short

and the fans into the match. Eventually it was Gomez and Smith who prevailed 7-5 with their solid net play and excellent team movement.

The Bulldogs took the third doubles match to win the doubles point and get on the board first with a 1-0 team lead.

Tech would lose the next two points as sophomore Elliot Potvin fell to Javier Garrapiz 6-3, 7-6 (7-2), and King lost to UGA's Hunt 6-0, 6-1.

No. 12 Gomez took on No. 10 Schnugg. Gomez took the first set fairly quickly by a score of 6-3 over Schnugg, but there was nothing else quick about the match as the players got stuck in long baseline rallies exchanging blistering forehands and trying to break down the other's backhand. But as darkness began to fall outside the tennis center, Schnugg was able to utilize his almost unbreakable serve to take the second set 7-3 in the tiebreaker and the third set 7-5. Gomez lost only his fifth match of the year.

Despite the score, the matches actually were in the fact close as the Jackets fell victim to six different tiebreakers on the day, with five coming at the crucial latter stage of the matches.

The Bulldogs were able to win the last three points of the team match with Josh Varela defeating sophomore Miguel Muguza 4-6, 7-6 (7-3), 1-0 (10-5), Borja Malo defeating Dusan Miljevic 6-3, 4-6, 1-0 (10-6), and Drake Bernstein defeating Ryan Smith 7-6 (7-5), 6-0.

The Jackets rebounded quickly from the UGA loss with a 4-3 win at Clemson, but fell 5-2 in their following two matches at Miami and at home to Florida State.

Tech had a strong outing when they defeated non-conference foe

Tennessee Tech 5-2 at the Bill Moore Tennis Center, but lost a close match at No. 21 Virginia Tech 4-3.

Tech stayed in the state of Virginia for their next match as they took on the No. 1 University of Virginia on Sunday. UVA came into the match undefeated.

Tech was able to keep all three doubles matches competitive early, but lost the point when Gomez and Ryan were defeated by the No. 4 team of Houston Barrick and Sanam Singh 8-6, and King and Kenny lost 8-5 to the No. 13 team of Dominic Ingot and Michael Shabaz 8-5.

The strongest doubles play of the day came from Tech's sophomore Austin Roebuck and Potvin who tied their set at seven all before losing 9-7 to Drew Courtney and Lee Singer.

Virginia, whose top three players are all ranked in the top 25, showed why they were the No. 1 team in the country as they were able to continue to dominate play in the singles matches.

UVA took a 3-0 lead with victories at the number two spot when No. 18 Michael Shabez defeated Muguza 6-2, 6-2, and No. 23 Sanam Singh defeated Potvin 6-3, 6-1.

Gomez had his shortest match of the season as he was defeated by No. 15 Dominic Ingot 6-3, 6-2.

Encouraging for Tech was the play of both freshmen. Miljevic got Tech's lone win on the day with a 6-1, 6-2 win over Steven Eelkman Rooda at the number six singles spot. King also fought hard at the four spot but came up short in the final tiebreaker losing 3-6, 7-5, (10-8).

The Jackets return to action today as they host No. 18 ranked Wake Forest at The Bill Moore Tennis Center.



Photo by Michael James / Student Publications

Ryan Smith returns a ball during doubles play alongside Guillermo Gomez at the Bill Moore Tennis Center. Smith and Gomez defeated Georgia's Nate Schnugg and Jamie Hunt 7-5 on February 27.

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Softball opens new stadium, wins nine games

By **Steven Cappetta**
Staff Writer

The Yellow Jacket softball team has seen success recently, winning the last nine of their last 11 games since the opening of Mewborn Field on March 10. Tech was undefeated at its new stadium until the second game against Georgia Southern this past Tuesday.

Shirley Clements Mewborn Field opened with a win as sophomore pitcher/third baseman Kristen Adkins hit the game-winning two-run home run in game one against Tennessee Martin to give the Jackets a 2-1 win and head coach Sharon Perkins her one-hundredth career victory. In game two, Adkins continued her hot streak, being the winning pitcher, which helped to name her the ACC co-Softball Player of the Week. The Jackets took game two with a score of 7-5, ending opening day at Mewborn Field with a win in each game of the doubleheader.

Tech swept the next four games at home against Western Carolina and Winthrop on March 17 and 18. Freshman shortstop Kelsi Weseman went 3-for-5 with three RBIs and her first career home run as a Jacket. Freshman third baseman/outfielder Danielle Dike was 2-for-3 on the day with two doubles and five RBIs that helped Tech to overtake Western Carolina 10-1 and 8-0 in the doubleheader.

The next day, Tech swept the doubleheader with Winthrop 6-4 and 7-1. Five different players had at least three hits led by Weseman, who was 4-for-6 with two doubles and two RBIs. The day saw five home runs: Adkins had two while seniors pitcher Tiffany Johnson and first baseman Whitney Haller as well as junior second baseman Jen Yee each had one. Adkins, Johnson and Haller all had three RBIs on the day, while sophomore outfielder/second baseman Christy Jones, Adkins, Yee and Haller each had a three-hit day. With the win against Winthrop, the Jackets extended their winning streak to nine straight games.

The women's team then traveled up to Blacksburg, VA for the next three games to open up ACC plays, facing Virginia Tech on March 21 and 22. On the first day of play, the Jackets won both games to sweep the Hokies 13-0 and 8-5 and increased Georgia Tech's winning streak to 11 straight. Yee was 5-for-6 with four walks, five runs scored and had two doubles. Weseman was 5-for-8 with seven runs scored, a double and a solo home while Haller was 5-for-9 with a home run and seven RBIs. The Jackets had 27 hits on the day with a team on-base percentage of .500.

The next day, in the third and last game of the series, the Jackets suffered their first ACC loss while snapping the 11-game winning streak. Virginia Tech came from

behind with a walk-off RBI single by Kristin Graham in the bottom of the seventh inning to give them the 3-2 win. Weseman was named the ACC Softball Player of the Week following the Virginia Tech series after batting .652 (15-for-23) in the seven games of the week. Weseman picked up 11 runs in addition to hitting six doubles, two home runs and six RBIs.

This past Tuesday, Tech hosted Georgia Southern in the doubleheader "Strikeout For The Cure

Day", in which Jacket pitchers combined to strike out 18 Eagles batters. Donations were made for each of those strikeouts to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

The women split the doubleheader as they won game one 9-1 in six innings, but fell in the later game by a 6-5 score. Adkins was 4-for-7, with a home run and two RBIs, while Yee had two home runs and three RBIs. Senior outfielder Blair Shimandle was 2-for-

4, and scored three runs while stealing four bases for the Jackets. All four bases were stolen in game one, setting a new Tech single-game record.

The Jackets will host Florida State in a three-game ACC series this weekend. Saturday is Stadium Celebration Day where the first 200 fans will receive a Mewborn Field T-shirt. There will be free popcorn, free pizza for students, and special promotions and giveaways throughout the entire day.



Photo by Joey Cerone / Student Publications

The softball opened the new stadium with a pair of wins over Tennessee-Martin on March 10.




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Hockey ends season with wins at ACHA national tournament

By Nishant Prasadh
Assistant Sports Editor

Tech's hockey team concluded a memorable 2008-09 campaign by competing at the ACHA Division III National Championship tournament in Rochester, NY. Although they lost their first two games in the four-day tournament, they ended the season on a

high note by winning their final two games to close out their season with a final record of 24-4.

Head Coach Brian McSparon considered the season, his first as Tech's head coach after several years as an assistant, to be a complete success. "All of our team goals were accomplished this season. [It was] a fine tribute to the leadership of this team and the de-

sire to honor Coach Greg [Stathis] with a true winning season," he said in his final Coaches' Corner interview of the year.

A week after achieving the foremost of those goals—winning the Savannah Memorial Health Hockey Classic on January 16-17—Tech defeated Georgia 7-5 in Duluth to complete the season sweep of their three games against the Bulldogs.

Two weeks later, the team traveled to Virginia for a three-day tournament in Richmond. In the first game, they took on Loyola College, a team that had been ranked as high as third in the Division III South region standings. Tech built a 2-1 lead through two periods, thanks to goals by senior Drew Baker and freshman Ryan Fritz and solid play by sophomore goalie Maxx Lucas; however, a slew of penalties in the third period led to a pair of Loyola power play goals, and that proved to be the difference as the Jackets fell 3-2. Tech recovered quickly, though, and won their next two games against Richmond University and Neumann College, scoring seven goals in each game.

The regular season came to an end on February 7, when the team took on Appalachian State in Alpharetta. That game served

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Photo by Blake Israel / Student Publications

Zach Von Tersch pitches during the Maryland series at Russ Chandler Stadium. He gave up eight earned runs against Virginia Tech.

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ies failed to score at the bottom of the inning, Senior left-fielder Chris House scored when Rowland batted him in after stealing second on a failed pickoff. With a commanding 10-6 lead, the Jackets proceeded to score eight more runs to make the final score 18-8.

Both Plagman and Skole delivered impressive performances during the series, with each racking up four hits in Sunday's game. On Monday, Skole was named the ACC Player of the Week after hitting .667 with three homers and 11 RBIs over the weekend.

"Skole had an unbelievable week, and so did Tony. Both of those guys swung the bat really well, and we needed them to. We needed to score some runs to win today," Head Coach Danny Hall said in an interview with ramblinwreck.com.

After the Virginia Tech series, Tech returned home for a pair of

midweek games against in-state foes Georgia State. The No. 3 Jackets stumbled badly against Georgia State, committing four errors in a 10-1 loss. Freshman starter Jed Bradley lasted only three innings, giving up five runs (three earned) on six hits and two walks. Rowland drove in Murton in the bottom of the fourth to put Tech on the board, but that was all the offense the Jackets could muster. The Panthers collected three home runs and three stolen bases, and they held Tech to just two baserunners over the final four innings, securing the victory.

A rain-filled day resulted in the game against No. 1 Georgia being cancelled on Wednesday, and while efforts are underway to plan a make-up game, so far no date has been set. As a result, Tech will prepare for its next opponent, but the road will be no easier going forward; this weekend they will travel to Coral Gables to take on No. 2 Miami.



Photo by Doug Kim / Student Publications

Ryan Fritz handles the puck in a game against the University of Georgia. Fritz was the leading scorer for the Jackets this season.

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Basketball beats Clemson, loses to FSU

By Matt Hoffman
Sports Editor

After the twelfth-seeded men's basketball team upset the fifth-seeded Clemson Tigers on the first day of the ACC Tournament, winning 86-81 on March 12, Tech came up just short against Florida State on the second day of the Tournament, falling 64-62. With the win and the loss at the Georgia Dome, the

Jackets ended the season 12-19 and failed to qualify for either the NIT or the NCAA Tournament.

"The guys played extremely hard all year and put themselves in a position to win, but unfortunately for us this year more people made plays at the end than we would have liked to have happen," said Head Coach Paul Hewitt.

In the first game against Clemson, the Jackets were able

to avenge a pair of losses by a combined 24 points against the Tigers during the regular season. In this game, senior guard Lewis Clinch continued his late-season hot streak and led the Jackets with 32 points for the game. This scoring total was a new career high for the season for Clinch, who set his previous career high of 30 points against Miami just eight days before.

"He's been a big-time play-

er for us for a long time. He's had some issues with injuries and missing some games. If he's on the court consistently, this is what you see from him. This is probably the first time in his career where there's not an injury or something that's kept him off the court," Hewitt said.

Sophomore forward Gani Lawal posted a double-double

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Women's B-ball falls in second round

By Matt Hoffman
Sports Editor

The women's basketball team qualified for the NCAA Tournament for the third straight year. After beating the No. 8 seeded Iowa on the Hawkeyes' home court Sunday, the Jackets fell short when they faced top-seeded Oklahoma Tuesday night, 69-50. The Jackets finished the season with a 23-10 record.

This marked the second time in three years that the Jackets advanced to the round of 32. The previous was in the 2007 Tournament when the Jacket beat DePaul in first round, before falling to Purdue.

"We're out there competing against some of the best players in the country, and they're freshman. [The young Tech players] probably don't even know what they're doing half the time. They just know that coach said to do this, so we're going to go do it," said Head Coach MaChelle Joseph.

Sophomore guard Deja Foster led the Jackets with 15 points for the game. Junior forward Brigitte Ardossi and sophomore forward Iasia Hemingway also hit double-digit point, picking up 11 and 10 points respectively.

The Sooners came out firing picking up five points within the first minute of play. They were able to expand their lead over the Jackets to 10 point with just over 11 minutes to play in the first half. But Tech was able to mount a come back against Oklahoma, not allowing the Sooners to hit a shot from the field in the last seven minutes of the half. The teams went into halftime tied at 29.

The Jackets were not able to keep their momentum from the first half. Tech's shooting percentage fell below 15 percent, as opposed to their shooting percentage of over 30 percent in the first half. Oklahoma shot consistently at the 40 percent mark for the game and controlled the second half.

"We have a lot to look forward to and we're very excited about this off-season... It's going to be an exciting time for us to grow this program and grow this team," Joseph said.

No. 3 Baseball wins two of four

By Christian Bockhop & Nishant Prasadh
Contributing Writer / Assistant Sports Editor

The baseball team scored an impressive pair of wins over Virginia Tech to defeat the Hokies 2-1 in last weekend's series in Blacksburg. The Jackets won the first game 10-9 and the third game 18-8, but Virginia Tech surprised them with a 9-5 upset in the second game to snap Tech's twelve-game winning streak.

Despite losing the streak, the Jackets earned an important road series victory in conference play. However, they could not build on the momentum from Sunday's win, and on Tuesday they committed several mistakes in falling 10-1 against Georgia State at Russ Chandler Stadium.

Against Virginia Tech, junior first baseman Tony Plagman started off game one with an RBI single in the top of the first. The Hokies responded over the next two innings to take an early 2-1 lead, and over the next five innings they increased their lead to 8-2, with Virginia Tech pitcher Rhett Ballard keeping the Jackets to six hits until he was pulled after pitching seven innings.

It was after Ballard left that Tech's offense began to pick up, with senior catcher Jason Haniger and freshman third baseman Matt Skole picking up RBI singles to make it a four point game. The Hokies responded in the bottom of the inning, though, to bring the score to 9-4.

In the top of the ninth, the Jackets' offense heated up even more. Sophomore shortstop Derek Dietrich drove in one runner, and Plagman doubled down the left field line to bring in two more runs. With the score 9-7, the Hokies changed pitchers, but new reliever Jesse Hahn promptly walked senior right fielder Luke Murton on four pitches. With two runners on base, Skole stepped up to the plate, and with the count at three balls and one strike, Skole drilled a pitch over the center field wall to put the Jackets ahead 10-9.

Freshman Mark Pope nailed down his fifth save in the bottom of the inning, and Tech escaped with a victory. Tech recovered from a season-high four errors to win, even though the Hokies capitalized on each one. Sophomore starter Deck McGuire had his first rough outing of the season, surrendering six runs over five innings to increase his ERA to 1.87, but the offense bailed him out.

Although the first game was a success for Tech, the Jackets made some serious mistakes that almost cost the game. The Jackets had a season high four errors, all of which were capitalized on by the Hokies. Sophomore Pitcher Deck McGuire pitched the first five innings allowing six runs and lifting his ERA to 1.87—still an exceptionally good number. Freshman right-hander Mark Pope got his season's fifth save.

On Saturday, the Hokies picked up



Photo by Joey Cerone/Student Publications

Jake Davies pitches at Russ Chandler Stadium. Davies pitched three and a third innings against Georgia State, allowing one hit and one unearned run in the loss.

where they left off in game one and showed that their performance in Friday's game was no fluke. Skole continued his hot streak with a career-high four hits, but the Hokies were able to post some big innings that the Jackets couldn't match.

In the first inning, Virginia Tech scored three runs to take the lead, and they never gave it up. Skole brought in a run the next inning to cut the lead to two, but Hokie left fielder Steve Domecus quickly responded by driving in a run.

The Jackets failed to score again until the seventh, while Virginia Tech added four runs in the fifth to bring the score to 8-1. In the seventh Tech began to rally, with Skole getting an RBI single and junior second-baseman Jason Garofalo batting in two runs on a pinch-hit double. Later in the inning, sophomore designated hitter Thomas Nichols scored on a

wild pitch to make the score 8-5. Junior left-fielder Jay Dantzler and sophomore center-fielder Jeff Rowland drew back-to-back walks to load the bases, but the Jackets were unable to capitalize, and they did not score again for the rest of the game.

Tech jumped ahead early in game three, with Plagman, Skole, and Murton batting in runs in the top of the first to give the Jackets a 3-0 lead. The Hokies responded over the next two innings to tie the game at 3-3, and they took the lead in the third making the score 6-4.

Sophomore catcher Cole Leonida started off the fourth with his second solo home run of the season. Plagman got and RBI a few minutes later. Skole brought himself and two others home when he drilled the ball over the left field wall. After the Hok-

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Courtesy of the Athletic Association

Jacqua Williams takes the ball up the court against Iowa during the first round.