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AND LOOK UNDER CHAPTER NEWS!

Baseball from page 28

to load the bases for Haniger. The senior sealed Tech's victory with a walk-off grand slam to right-center, tying the series at 1-1 in dramatic fashion.

"We found a way to win in the end," said Tech head coach Danny Hall in an interview with **ramblinwreck.com**. "You have to give our guys a lot of credit for hanging in there."

For the final game of the series on Sunday, the pitching matchup pitted sophomore right-hander Kevin Jacob against UNC's Matt Harvey in what would ultimately end in the Jackets' first series loss of the season. Tech took an early lead, driving in two runs and adding a third on a walk with the bases loaded. This lead disappeared in the top of the second, though, as the Tar Heels rallied to score eight runs (six earned) on six hits against Jacob. The Jackets committed three errors, prolonging the inning and allowing Carolina to increase their lead. Nichols replaced Jacob and got the final out of the inning.

The third and fourth innings saw the Heels increase their lead

to seven, pushing the score to 11-4. Tech started the bottom of the fifth with singles from Murton and freshman third baseman Matt Skole, followed by an RBI single by junior second baseman Jason Garofalo. A sacrifice fly and a double gave Tech two more runs, cutting the lead to 11-7.

Each team added a run in the sixth, with the Heels' run coming on Dustin Ackley's second homer of the game and the Jackets answering with an RBI double by Murton. UNC drove in one more in the top of the eighth to put the score at 13-8 in their favor. That was the score as the bottom of the ninth began; Tech closed to within three on a Haniger two-run homer, but pitcher Bryant Gaines closed out the inning with two groundouts, sealing UNC's victory and giving them the series.

"I feel like today was opportunity wasted," Hall said. "Our bullpen gave us a chance to stay in the game. It's just a case where we gave up a big inning, and those will usually haunt you."

The Jackets take the field again today at 7 p.m. to open a three-game home series against Virginia.



Photo by Michael James/Student Publications

Chris House watches a game from the Tech dugout at Russ Chandler Stadium. House scored two runs in Saturday's win over UNC.

W-Tennis from page 28

Maryland in its final regular season home match 7-0. As the only senior on the team, Striplin was recognized in a small ceremony prior to the match for her accomplishments. Going into the match, Striplin was second all-time for singles wins at Tech with 111. She also recorded 66 career doubles wins, which places her at eighth all-time.

Due to the forecast of rain, it was agreed that the women play the singles matches before doubles. All six singles matches were able to finish outdoors before rain began to fall. Blau opened the day with a 6-3, 6-1 win over Jordan Hansbrough on court six. Wins from McDowell and Hick-

ey pushed Tech's lead to 3-0 before Striplin sealed the win with a straight set, 6-3, 6-0 victory over Karin Lundmark. Ngo and Krupina then finished off singles with wins which brought Tech to a score of 6-0.

The two teams then moved indoors because of rain and finished with doubles. Tech swept all three matches and easily clinched the doubles point. The doubles teams of McDowell/Blau and Falconi/Krupina were each able to win their respective matches with a score of 8-1 that resulted in the final match score of 7-0.

The women's tennis team will close out the regular season as it plays North Carolina today and Duke tomorrow in an effort to win the ACC regular-season title.

Baseball splits two with Ga. Southern

By John Anderson
Contributing Writer

The cold temperatures on Tuesday night could not keep senior Luke Murton and the baseball team from getting red hot, as Murton knocked two home runs and the No. 8 Jackets (20-7) beat the Georgia Southern Eagles 8-4 at Russ Chandler Stadium. Tech was unable to continue the good hitting the following day, though, giving up 19 runs over the final three innings and losing to Georgia Southern 23-3.

Georgia Southern (22-8) was able to strike quickly on Tuesday night. RBI singles by Griffin Benedict and Eric Phillips gave the Eagles a 2-0 lead after two innings. Meanwhile, Tech's bats were cold through the first three innings. Southern's starting pitcher, Michael Hester, consistently mixed in good off-speed pitches to keep the Jackets off balance and cause many ground balls.

"[Hester] wasn't throwing that hard, and he kind of had us all out in front We had to see the guy maybe one time through the order just to see how he was going to pitch us. But I felt like we did make better adjustments as the game went on," Head Coach Danny Hall said.

Hall's impression was right: after one time through the order, things did begin to get a little easier for Tech. Murton hit the first of his two home runs, a deep solo shot that cut Southern's lead in half and got the Tech bats rolling.

The rest of the Jackets followed Murton's example in the fifth inning when, with two outs and nobody on, sophomore short-stop Derek Dietrich clocked a high shot that got caught up in the strong wind current blowing down the right field line. The

ball carried over the right fielder's head, and Dietrich made it all the way to third base. Senior Jason Haniger then hit a sharp single to left field that brought in Dietrich.

The next batter, senior first baseman Tony Plagman, drew a walk to put Haniger in scoring position. Murton then came to the plate and connected on his second home run; unlike Dietrich's hit earlier, though, this one was against the wind but still carried over the left field fence to bring Murton's RBI total to four on the night.

"[Murton's] been on fire of late. [He's] been hitting a lot of home runs. I hope he continues for the rest of the year. But he's given us a big lift," Hall said of Murton, who has seven homers over the past seven games.

Tech sophomore starter Brandon Cumpton had a solid outing, limiting Southern to two runs on eight hits over five and one third innings while striking out six. The bullpen also looked sharp, as junior Andrew Robinson relieved Cumpton in the sixth and pitched 2.2 scoreless innings, allowing just two hits.

"Cumpton gave up a couple runs early, but I thought he really settled down and pitched [well], and then I thought Robinson was outstanding," Hall said.

Georgia Southern was able to rebound on Wednesday afternoon as the Jackets never found their offensive groove. Southern got an early 2-0 lead after Tech starter Jed Bradley's wild pitch in the top of the first inning, but Tech came right back to score a run on Dietrich's RBI single a half inning later. However, Tech would plate only two more runs, as Southern's starter Andy Moye allowed two runs over four innings and four relief pitchers limited Tech

to three hits and one run over the rest of the game.

Tech's relievers struggled mightily toward the end of the game. With the score 4-2 in the Eagles' favor after six innings, a grand slam by Southern's Ty Wright powered a massive rally for the visitors over the final three innings. Tech gave up seven runs in the seventh inning, one in the

eighth, and eleven in the ninth, and the Jackets fell 23-3 to split the season series with the Eagles.

The Jackets look to rebound when they return to action tonight, hosting the No. 14 Virginia Commodores in the first game of a three-game weekend series. On Tuesday, Tech will travel to Athens to battle Georgia in the teams' first meeting of the season.



Photo by Kelvin Kuo / Student Publications

Kevin Jacob pitches from the mound at Russ Chandler Stadium. Jacob pitched in relief in Wednesday's loss to Georgia Southern.

Pitching from page 28

The midweek starters were more in flux early in the season, but Hall seems to have settled on sophomore right-hander Brandon Cumpton and freshman left-hander Jed Bradley. Cumpton has had a rough season after a strong performance on opening weekend, surrendering 12 runs in 12 innings in his past three starts while allowing opposing batters to hit .356 against him. Bradley pitched five no-hit innings in relief against Kennesaw State on March 17; with only three starts under his belt, he is still adjusting to starting duties, but he provides Tech with a left-handed arm in the rotation.

Until Wednesday's game, the bullpen had been consistently effective, with each of Tech's four main relievers maintaining an ERA below four. Freshman Jake Davies and sophomore Zach Brewster have been reliable south-paw options, junior right-hander Andrew Robinson has been solid after converting from midweek starter to the bullpen, and freshman Mark Pope has thrived in the closer role. In addition to those four, infielders Patrick Long and Thomas Nichols occasionally appear in relief, and Hall has also worked sophomore Taylor Wood and freshman Jacob Esch into the mix.

Tech has one of the most productive offenses in the nation, but in order to maintain its level of success this season, the team will need its pitching staff to rebound from a difficult four-day stretch in which the Jackets surrendered 13 runs to UNC on Sunday and 23 to Georgia Southern on Wednesday. The team may drop out of the national top 10 after this week, but if the rotation and bullpen can remain effective through the rest of the season, the Jackets could power their way back to the top of the national rankings.

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Someone should probably alert Playboy that we aren't Georgia Tech UNIVERSITY there better be some sweet flowers in May after all of this rain! watch it cowboy ISyE, #1, 19 years straight Hey ladies, I'm a nice guy. Give me a chance. Hey, you with the iphone, stop bragging about it. Some of us made a decision not to buy it, so quit nagging about how it's the best device in the world. It is not. How much you paying? 80 bucks a month? There has been enough rain to end this 'drought' now. mo' beef. (:3) <--- manatee i hope that guy doesn't win CHBE representative b/c he's a cheating liar! go other guy, whoever you are Ruckus closed, Spiralfrog gone. Where will I go for music? fo' free. CCW should be legal on campus so I don't get robbed like everybody else If you're going to report about the candidates, you should spell their names correctly. D-o-n-O-h-u-e.

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Monday, April 13 – Friday, April 17, 2009

A weeklong schedule of environmentally friendly events
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Monday, April 13

Green Rally

11:30 AM — 1:00 PM, at the Campanile (Rain location: Student Commons Stage)
Featuring President and Mrs. Peterson at noon speaking from a solar powered podium
Everyone on campus is encouraged to wear green.
The first 1,000 people will receive FREE reusable water bottles,
recycled wristbands, compact fluorescent light bulbs, recycled tote bags, and organic popcorn!

Tuesday, April 14

Sustainable Fashion Show

11:00 AM — 12:30 PM, at the Campanile (Rain location: Student Center)
Recycled materials, organic cotton, hemp and vintage clothing. See designs from local stores
and designers as well as Georgia Tech students!

Wednesday, April 15

Free Public Screening of the Disneynature film "earth"

7:00 PM, at the Atlantic Station Regal Cinema
A limited number of FREE tickets are available at www.buzzcard.gatech.edu.
(Click on 'Manage your account', log in, and reserve your ticket at the eMarketplace.)



Thursday, April 16

Environmental Justice Panel Discussion, presented by Students Organizing for Sustainability

11:00 AM — 12:30 PM, in the Student Center Ballroom Blue
Nia Robinson - director, Environmental Justice and Climate Change Initiative for Redefining Progress
Barbara Deutsch Lynch - associate professor in International Affairs and City & Regional Planning
Tony C. Anderson - Co-Founder of Let's Raise a Million
Rick La Torre - Georgia Coal Organizer for the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE)

Battle of the Bands, presented by Emerging Leaders

5:00 PM — 11:00 PM, at the Campanile (Rain location: Tech Rec in the Student Center)
Featuring a solar powered stage provided by Tree Power and Sound



Free Screening of "Flow: For the Love of Water" presented by Environmental Alliance at GT
7:30 PM — 9:00 PM, in the Student Center Theater (Rain location: Student Commons Stage)

Friday, April 17

Georgia Tech's 12th Annual Earth Day Celebration

10:00 AM — 2:00 PM, on the Skiles walkway
www.earthday.gatech.edu



Strong season for Rugby leads to conference title



Photo by Ben Keyserling/ Student Publications

The rugby team battles for control of the ball during a scrum. This season, the team overcame a number of injuries and defeated Auburn, Kennesaw State, and Emory.

By **Christian Bockhop**
Contributing Writer

The Tech rugby team continued its tradition of tackling, hitting and winning, concluding another strong season as it beat out Emory 28-7 last Thursday to win the conference championship for the third year in a row. With the three conference titles, along with berths in the South Region Championship each of the past two seasons, Tech has emerged as a power in Division II rugby.

This season's success came despite a rash of serious injuries as the spring began. Co-captain Rob DeBernard and talented freshman Luke Leonard both suffered severe knee injuries that kept them from playing, veteran Mike Garcia broke his hand, and freshman Kyle Zeman separated his shoulder, thinning out a roster

that seemingly lacked depth already. After three losses in the annual ACC tournament, many of the players felt like they would be lucky to win even one conference game this year.

The outlook was bleak, but thanks in part to the leadership of returning captain Max Groves as well as a dedicated team that overcame its inexperience, Tech's season was anything but dismal. The team came out strong in its first conference game, earning a resounding 38-7 victory at the Burger Bowl over one of its biggest rivals, the Auburn. The big win made it clear that this mix of veterans and rookies could definitely function as a cohesive unit.

"[Rugby] is a mixture of football, soccer and a no-rules bar fight," said team president Daniel Cooper, summarizing the team's approach to each game.

A week later at the Burger Bowl, the Jackets faced one of their toughest opponents, Kennesaw State. The Owls were the early favorite to win the Conference after winning last fall's Georgia Rugby Tournament. Though the Jackets were expected to lose by a large margin, they scored another upset, pulling out a 19-10 victory to improve to 2-0 in conference play.

Tech traveled to Statesboro two weeks later and found themselves in a highly physical battle with Georgia Southern. The game ended with a 17-6 loss, marking the first time Tech had lost a conference game in three years. The Jackets did not allow the loss to faze them, however, as they went on to clinch the conference title with the 21-point win over Emory the following Thursday.

The rugby program is growing

at Tech, and because it is a club sport, the environment is more relaxed than that of a varsity sport.

"We're a very jovial team. We practice hard and we train hard, but we have fun. [For] guys that come on if they want to just blow off some steam or just hit somebody, this is a very good place to do it," Cooper said.

Despite the somewhat relaxed environment, rugby is a dangerous sport that involves a considerable injury risk, and a certain level of recklessness is definitely required to be successful. Over the past few years, players have broken their ankles, separated their shoulders, suffered torn ACLs, and worse. In one legendary instance, during the 2007 Tech-Emory game a player fell head-first into the ground, requiring surgery that night by CNN's Dr. Sanjay Gupta.

Although their high tolerance for pain and love for aggression may indicate otherwise, the players exude a level of friendliness and class that some might find surprising.

"Whereas football is a gentleman's sport played by ruffians, rugby is a ruffian's sport played by gentleman," Cooper said.

The rugby team is an inclusive group that welcomes new players.

"[Anyone who shows up] with cleats and a mouthguard, we'll take him. Anyone can walk on. There are no tryouts to play," Cooper said. "As we go into the fall season, we'll be losing several long-time players to graduation ... however, if this season is any indication of what we can expect, we have a great recruiting year to look forward to as well as the further development of many young key players."

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Women's tennis ends home matches with two wins

By **Steven Cappetta**
Staff Writer

The No. 6 ranked women's tennis team hosted its last two matches of the regular season against Boston College and Maryland last weekend. The Jackets have seen success against both these opponents in the past as Boston College has not beaten Tech since joining the ACC and Maryland has lost nine straight times while

not winning in Atlanta since April 19, 1998.

On Saturday, the Jackets defeated Boston College 6-1 and improved their record to 14-5 overall and 7-1 in the ACC. Tech opened up the day with a sweep of all three doubles matches to take an early 1-0 lead. Freshman Irina Falconi and sophomore Sasha Krupina were the first tandem to finish as they overtook the Eagles' Alina Sullivan and Jac-

queline Mabatah by the score of 8-1. The No. 20 ranked team of senior Christy Striplin and freshman Noelle Hickey clinched the doubles point for the Jackets with an 8-3 win over Lauren Cash and Dasha Cherasov on court one, and to finish off doubles for the day, junior Amanda McDowell and freshman Lynn Blau defeated Lana Krasnopolsky and Katarina Gajic with a final score of 8-2.

No. 7 ranked Falconi, who was

the previous week's ACC women's tennis co-player of the week for her perfect 3-0 in singles and doubles, opened up singles play with a 6-2, 6-0 win over Krasnopolsky at the top spot. Freshman Viet Ha Ngo then upped Tech's lead to 3-0 following a victory over Brittany Delaney, 6-2, 6-2 on court six. Krupina then sealed the victory on the day for the Jackets after beating Sullivan 6-3, 6-3. Striplin then won her match 6-1,

6-4 over Katharine Attwell at the fourth spot in the lineup. No. 19 ranked McDowell gave Tech its final win on the day after defeating Gajic 6-1, 7-6 (10-8) at the second position. Hickey's close loss to Cash, 7-6 (9-7), 7-6 (7-3), gave Boston College its only point on the day and ended the match with the final score of 6-1.

On Sunday, the Jackets swept

See **W-Tennis**, page 24

North Carolina slides around Tech

IN DEPTH | PITCHING

Pitching staff looks to build on solid start

By **Nishant Prasadh**
Assistant Sports Editor

The pitching staff was a question mark for the Jackets in the preseason after the team lost two key starters and both closers from the 2008 squad. So far, though, the 2009 staff has been solid on all fronts, posting strong numbers to date and putting the team in position to win games.

At the forefront of the starting rotation has been sophomore right-hander Deck McGuire, who leads Tech starters with a 2.36 ERA, a 1.23 WHIP and 59 strikeouts; he remains undefeated at 5-0 through seven starts. McGuire was at his best in last weekend's series against North Carolina, giving up just one run in six innings while striking out 11, though he did not factor into the decision as Tech fell 4-2.

"More than anything, I'm in better shape than I've ever been ... and it helps when you know that your team's going to score runs," McGuire said.

The other two weekend starters, junior Zach Von Tersch and sophomore Kevin Jacob, have hit some bumps in the road. Von Tersch has struggled to replicate his solid 2008 season so far, with a 5.45 ERA in seven games as the Saturday starter. The junior righty has pitched into the sixth inning in only one start this season, as he has often fallen victim to high pitch counts. This Saturday's game was no exception, as Von Tersch threw 89 pitches while giving up four runs—two earned—over five innings. Still, he left the game with Tech down by only a run, and the Jackets mounted a late-inning comeback to win the game and preserve his 5-1 record.

Jacob—Tech's only starter who averages under one strikeout per inning—took over Sunday duties early in the season after opening the year as a midweek starter, and until this weekend he had been excellent, going 4-1 with a 2.97 ERA. However, against UNC he seemed rattled after a series of defensive mishaps in the second inning, and the Tar Heels rallied for an eight-run inning to force him from the game.

"Guys are going to make errors, so you need to expect that when you're pitching, and then you've got to be able to make pitches after that. He wasn't able to do that [on Sunday]," Head Coach Danny Hall said.

See **Pitching**, page 25



Photo by Michael James/Student Publications

No. 5 Jackets lose series to No. 3 Tar Heels

By **Kyle Conarro**
Contributing Writer

The No. 5 baseball team took the field at Russ Chandler Stadium this past weekend to host North Carolina in a three game series. Despite a solid effort, the Jackets struggled against their ACC rival, losing two of three to the No. 3 Tar Heels.

In the series opener on Friday, Tech sophomore starter Deck McGuire faced off against UNC's Alex White. McGuire's outing started with an early run on a sacrifice fly, but he shut down any further offensive attacks, giving up only two hits and registering 11 strikeouts through six innings. However, the Jackets' only offense during that span was a single run on a sacrifice fly by sophomore designated hitter Thomas Nichols in the fourth.

After three scoreless innings on both sides, the Tar Heels scored two runs in the top of the eighth to go up 3-1. Tech responded in the bottom half when senior catcher Jason Haniger drove in junior center fielder Jeff Rowland on a two-out double, bringing the Jackets within one. The Tar Heels scored again on a solo home run

by Levi Michael in the top of the ninth, though, increasing their lead to two once again. The Jackets were unable to score in the bottom of the ninth, and UNC took the series opener 4-2.

Tech's offense fared better in Saturday's extra-inning battle. The Tar Heels climbed ahead quickly when Garret Gore hit a two-run first-inning homer off junior starter Zach Von Tersch, but Tech cut the lead to one in the bottom half on a Rowland leadoff homer and added two more an inning later on a two-run shot by senior right fielder Luke Murton.

The Tar Heels responded in the top of the fourth with two runs to take a 4-3 lead. That score lasted into the top of the ninth, when UNC added two more runs against Tech junior pitcher Andrew Robinson. Facing a three-run deficit in the bottom of the ninth, the Jackets rallied to tie the game. Murton starting the inning with a solo homer, and a single and a walk setup an RBI single for Rowland to cut the gap to one run. Shortstop Derek Dietrich drove in the tying run with a single, but UNC pitcher Colin Bates struck out Haniger to close out the ninth, stranding



Photo by Kelvin Kuo/Student Publications

Tech celebrates Jason Haniger's grand slam which ended Saturday's game.

two and forcing the game into extra innings.

Tech brought in freshman closer Mark Pope for the start of the tenth, and Pope gave up just two hits in two scoreless innings to preserve the tie. With one out in the bottom of the eleventh, back-to-back singles put runners on for Dietrich, who reached first on a hard hit infield single

See **Baseball**, page 24