SPORTS

The economy sucks.

Free pizza rations on Tuesdays.
**Boston College**

Head Coach: Frank Spaziani (1st)
2008 Record: 9-5 (5-3) – Atlantic Div. Title

The going will be tough for the Eagles as they attempt to repeat as Atlantic Division champs. New coach Frank Spaziani must find a starting quarterback, BC’s third in three years, and hope that the defense holds up despite losing three stars—defensive tackles B.J. Raji and Ron Brace, who moved on to the NFL, and linebacker Mark Herzlich, the 2008 ACC Defensive Player of the Year who was diagnosed with cancer in May and will miss the season.

**Clemson**

Head Coach: Dabo Swinney (2nd)
2008 Record: 7-6 (4-4) – T-3rd in Coastal

Newly christened starting quarterback Kyle Parker has no prior game experience and could struggle. However, the ground game will be the focal point of the offense thanks to the return of explosive running back C.J. Spiller and four starting offensive linemen. Defensively, Clemson’s front seven should be among the best in the conference, and the unit as a whole should make great strides under new defensive coordinator Kevin Steele.

**Florida State**

Head Coach: Bobby Bowden (34th)
2008 Record: 9-4 (5-3) – T-1st in Coastal

Off the field, the Seminoles’ offseason has been marred by arrests, suspensions and allegations of major academic violations. On the field, mobile quarterback Christian Ponder and a stellar offensive line should power a potent offense. Only five starters return on defense and All-American kicker/punter Graham Gano is gone, but the Seminoles are loaded with talent at practically every position and will contend for the ACC title in 2009.

**Wake Forest**

Head Coach: Jim Grobe (9th)
2008 Record: 8-5 (4-4) – T-3rd in Coastal

Ten starters return on offense for the Demon Deacons, led by reliable senior quarterback Riley Skinner, but the team’s offensive line must improve greatly from last season for the offense to remain strong. The defense faces plenty of challenges: Between the linebackers and secondary, corner Brandon Ghee is the only returning starter, and replacing top NFL draft picks Aaron Curry and Alphonso Smith will not be an easy task.

**NC State**

Head Coach: Tom O’Brien (3rd)
2008 Record: 6-7 (4-4) – T-3rd in Coastal

Versatile quarterback Russell Wilson, who earned first team All-ACC honors as a freshman in 2008, is expected to make the Wolfpack contenders in the Atlantic Division this season. Wilson has plenty of weapons around him, but the offensive line must protect him better. The defensive line will be a strength, but the linebacking corps will miss injured star Nate Irving and the secondary will need to step up.

**Maryland**

Head Coach: Ralph Friedgen (9th)
2008 Record: 8-5 (4-4) – T-3rd in Coastal

The Terrapins have a star running back in junior Da’Rel Scott and a steady hand at quarterback in senior Chris Turner, but the team has to replace most of its offensive line and inexperience could be a problem for the offense. Only four starters return on defense, but the hope is that new coordinator Don Brown’s blitz-heavy approach will allow the unit to remain strong in 2009 despite losses throughout the unit.

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As the 2009-10 academic year begins, several of Tech's sports teams have witnessed changes on their coaching staffs and must adjust to new leadership in the coming year. Two varsity squads—the volleyball team and the swimming and diving team—brought in new head coaches, while the men's and women's basketball teams both saw assistant coaches depart to take up head coaching positions at other schools.

A big story last winter was the volleyball team's hiring of Tonya Johnson, who has spent the last six years with the highly successful Texas Longhorns. Johnson, who began her career as an assistant at LSU and coached there from 1998-2002, played a key role in facilitating the growth of the Longhorns' volleyball program into a national power. While in assistant from 2003-06, she helped to lead Texas to the NCAA Tournament four years in a row and to the Elite Eight in 2006 and 2007, and in 2008 she was promoted to associate head coach for the team's run to the Final Four.

After joining the Jacke
son hired a pair of assistants with whom she had close ties. One of them, Craig Bere, was an assistant at LSU under Fran Flory, who was also the head coach during John-
son's time at the school; the other, Ed Tolentino, met Johnson while she was on the recruiting trail at Tech and has made her biggest mark in the pool. Hart's goodbye tournament was the Georgia Tech Invitational, which featured top ten in several career statistical categories. Like Young, Messer led his alma mater to the NCAA Tournament seven years in a row and to the Elite Eight in 2006 and 2007, and in 2008 she was promoted to associate head coach for the team's run to the Final Four.

After joining the Jacke
Josh Nesbitt looks for an open receiver against Virginia Tech. Nesbitt is on the preseason watch list for the Davey O'Brien Award.
Technique

• August 21, 2009 •

SPORTS

more took an early lead in the final set. Domijan fought back to force a tiebreak, but King held on for the win.

For King, who was the No. 19 seed in the tournament, the win was his highest ever over a ranked opponent and his first against a No. 1 seed. He faced Domijan in the same round last year but fell in two sets 2-6, 2-6. Domijan, who stands 6-foot-7, was handed the 16th loss of his junior career and his fourth in 2009. King, the highest ranked American recruit to ever play at Tech, posted an even 17-17 overall record in singles matches while playing primarily at the No. 2 position on the team behind junior Guillermo Gomez.

Haller, five teammates win academic honors

By Steven Cappetta
Assistant Sports Editor

First baseman Whitney Haller was named the 2009 ACC Softball Scholar-Athlete of the Year on August 6. The honor comes at the end of Haller’s distinguished four-year career with the Jackets, during which the Marietta, Ga., native held up a 3.94 GPA as an Industrial Engineering major while setting several team records on the field.

As a senior, Haller helped the No. 13 Jackets to their first-ever Super Regional appearance earlier this year, as well as victories in both the ACC regular season and tournament title. She holds the all-time Tech and ACC records for both home runs and RBI and was dubbed earlier this year a first-team ESPN The Magazine/CoSIDA Academic All-American. She also ranks in the top five for both Tech and the ACC in several other career categories including batting average, slugging percentage, runs scored, hits, doubles and fielding percentage.

Last season Haller had a .381 batting average this year, 69 hits, 55 runs scored, 10 doubles, 12 home runs, 117 total bases, a .646 slugging percentage and a .449 on-base percentage. Her 55 RBI were the highest both on the Jackets and in the ACC.

In addition to Haller, five other Jackets were selected to the All-ACC Academic team for two years in a row. All eight ACC softball teams were represented on the 50-member team. Tech and Florida State both had six selections, Virginia contributed five players, North Carolina gave four, Boston College placed three, and Maryland, NC State and Virginia Tech each had two apiece.

Haller and ten other members of the All-ACC Academic Softball team were also placed in the All-ACC in 2009. Four of those individuals have made multiple All-ACC Academic accolades for the second consecutive season, and six for the third consecutive season, but Haller and Shimandle are the only ones in the conference to earn the honors four years in a row.
All eyes on Tech football stars in ’09

Falconi, King earn notable individual tennis victories

Falconi, King earn notable individual tennis victories

By Nishant Prasadh
Sports Editor

Following last year’s surprising 9-4 season that led to a share of the ACC Coastal Division title and a berth in the Chick-Fil-A Bowl, several players on Tech’s football team are earning recognition as the 2009 season approaches. Four Tech players—two on offense and two on defense—have been named to preseason watch lists for a variety of national college football awards for their respective positions.

Leading the way is the 2008 ACC Offensive Player of the Year, junior B-back Jonathan Dwyer. The Marietta, Ga., native took home the conference’s top postseason individual honor for offensive players last season after rushing for 1,395 yards and 12 touchdowns on just 209 carries, resulting in an average of just under seven yards per carry. His combination of power and speed in the ground game and his ability to perform at his best against Tech’s toughest opponents have earned him spots on national watch lists for two prominent awards. For the second straight year, Dwyer is one of 30 players on the watch list for the Doak Walker Award, which is awarded to the best running back in the nation. While he should be a contender for the award, he will face stiff competition from California’s Jahvid Best, Oklahoma State’s Kendall Hunter and Clemson’s C.J. Spiller, among others.

Dwyer has also been highlight- for a higher honor: the Walter Camp Football Foundation 2009 Player of the Year, which is given to the player voted the best in the country according to a panel of head coaches and Sports Information Directors. This year’s watch list includes the 2008 Camp Award winner, Texas quarterback Colt McCoy, who elected to return for his senior season. Junior quarterback Josh Nesbitt is also in the running for his own position’s highest honor. He was named to the 33-player Davey O’Brien Award watch list for the nation’s best quarterback. Operat- ing the Jackets’ run-heavy offense last season, Nesbitt did not put up the passing numbers of many of the other players on the list, completing 94 of 123 passes for 808 yards and two touchdowns. However, he did also rush for 693 yards and seven touchdowns, and as a first-year starter he improved throughout the season at making reads on option plays. He has several obstacles in his way for the award, though. All three of last season’s Heisman Trophy final- ists—Oklahoma’s Sam Bradford, Texas’s McCoy, and Florida’s Tim Tebow—are quarterbacks and will return in 2009. Tebow and Bradford won the award in 2007 and 2008, respectively.

On the other side of the ball, Tech’s lone returning starter on the defensive line, junior end Derrick Morgan, is one of 153 candi- dates for the Rotary Club’s Lombardi Award. Created in honor of former tackle Chuck Lombardi, the award is presented to the nation’s top offensive or defensive lineman.

Backup QB Shaw breaks collarbone, out 6-8 weeks

Sophomore quarterback Jaybo Shaw, who was slated to be the main backup to junior Josh Nesbitt, broke his collarbone last Saturday during a scrimmage. Shaw could be ready to return in six to eight weeks, which would have him back on the field in October.

With Shaw out, redshirt freshman Tevin Washington takes over as the second-string quarterback. There has been talk that Shaw may be red- shirted because of Washing- ton’s strong play in practice, but Head Coach Paul Johnson claimed it is too early to specu- late on how the Jackets will ul- timately handle the situation.

Shaw played in seven games last season and had 321 passing yards, 200 rushing yards, and five total touchdowns. He is the only quarterback on the team aside from Nesbitt who has any game experience.

Basketball recruit will miss season after tearing ACL

Men’s basketball freshman Kammeon Holsey had surgery last week on his torn right ACL and will miss the 2009-10 sea- son. He tore the ligament while playing basketball in a local summer league at the start of the month.

Holsey, a 6-foot-8 power forward, was named the Geor- gia Class A Player of the Year after leading Hancock Central High to the state champion- ship in 2009. He was expected to see time as a reserve forward for the Jackets this season.