Whether he wins the job or not, redshirt junior Anthony Allen has shown great improvement during practice, and will likely spell Dwyer at B-back on occasion. “(Allen’s) a great addition to Georgia Tech...He could be a standout player this year,” Cox said.

Several other young players should factor into the backfield as well. Sophomore Marcus Wright, one of the team’s quickest players, saw time as a reserve A-back last year and as a kick returner alongside Jones. He has reportedly shown great improvement during practice and should be a bigger factor than last year.

Another sophomore, Embry Peeples, is in the same mold as Wright and will provide another fast option out of the backfield. He too saw limited time last year as a reserve, but performed well when on the field. Meanwhile, true freshman Orwin Smith is bigger than the trio of quick sophomores and should be a viable and versatile option.

Since everyone but the新鲜man Smith has a year’s worth of experience running the offense, the unit’s focus in practice has shifted toward more specific areas. “We’re focusing more on our routes and on our assignments. We just had to get the gist of it last year...but now we’re just fine-tuning everything,” Cox said.

Cox highlighted the unit’s overall speed as its biggest strength and said that the depth would be a challenge and will likely spell Dwyer at B-back. “Getting blocks on the perimeter...has been a challenge, and it’ll always be a challenge. But if we can fine-tune it a bit, I think we’ll be better off,” Cox said.

Volleyball from page 28

The Jackets emerged victorious, taking the match 3-1 (33-31, 25-22, 22-25, 25-22) as another then-freshman outside hitter, Allison Campbell, notched 20 kills in her team debut.

As the 2008 battle was in Athens, this will mark the first time that Tech volleyball has hosted Georgia to open the season. Tech’s 31-match history against the Bulldogs on the volleyball court has been one of lengthy streaks. Georgia won the first twenty contests between the teams, but as the Jackets’ program has grown, the team has seen considerable success in the rivalry and has taken ten of the last eleven matches, including each of the last three.

Like Tech, Georgia lost its top attacker from last season with the graduation of outside hitter Maria Taylor. Still, the Bulldogs still have plenty of experience on the offensive end with junior outside hitter Erika Clark, who led the team in digs and was second in kills in 2008, and junior middle hitter Valentina Gonzalez, who had a team-high .275 hit percentage last year.

Tech has faced Mercer nineteen times with much better results. The Jackets are 18-1 all time in ACC play against the Bears, who posted an 18-10 record last season with a 13-7 mark against fellow Atlantic Sun Conference teams. Mercer’s squad is relatively young, as setter/offensive specialist Chelsea Gebben is the only senior on the team, but the Bears are optimistic after last season’s success. Head coach Noelle Rookie is entering her sixth season with the team and is coming off a season in which she was named the Atlantic Sun Coach of the Year.

Meanwhile, the last team in the tournament—the Austin Peay Governors—will take on the host Blue Raiders, as well as Ohio University and the University of Northern Illinois.

Like Tech, Austin Peay is a growing program at Tech. As the 2008 battle was in Athens, this will mark the first time that the Jackets have hosted the Regency Suites Invitational and the eighth straight year Tech has hosted an early-season invitational tournament. It is the first of four invitational tournaments in which the Jackets are participating this season, and one of two that the team will host at Atlanta.

Next week, the team will travel to Tennessee for the Blue Raider Bash, hosted by Middle Tennessee and Tennessee State University, in which the team will take on the host Blue Raiders, as well as Ohio University and the University of Northern Illinois.

On the weekend of September 11-12, the Jackets will host the Georgia Tech Courtyard Classic, which will feature Southeast Missouri State, the University of Mississippi, and Tech’s first ACC opponent, Clemson University.

A week after that, the Jackets will travel to Denver for their final early-season tournament and face the University of Denver and the University of Minnesota in the Denver Invitational. After that all of Tech’s opponents will be ACC teams.

Volunteers needed to play ATC game

Psychologists at Georgia Tech are looking for people willing to participate in a research study using simulated Air Traffic Control. Participation is open to students (normal vision, hearing, native English) between 18 and 31 years old. You will play an ATC video game 4-5 hours a week for 10 weeks. Performance, memory, comprehension, and decision making will be measured. You will receive $5 an hour plus a 10% bonus for completing all parts of the study, for a total of $400.

To volunteer or inquire about additional details, please contact the Cognitive Ergonomics Lab at (404) 894-6771 or email vlpop@gatech.edu

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Student Publications

Lucas Cox evades Miami defenders during last season’s final home game at Bobby Dodd Stadium. Cox should see time at both A-back and B-back this season as one of Tech’s best power runners.
Basketball opens season in Canada

By Alex Mitchell
Contributing Writer

The players of the men's basketball team will be spending their fall break north of the border, as the Jackets have scheduled three October preseason exhibition games in Canada to prepare for the upcoming season.

Head Coach Paul Hewitt looks at the trip as a good way for the team to prepare for the season by taking on new competition. "This is a good opportunity for [the new players] to gain experience, not only through games, but the extra practices," Hewitt said, also mentioning that the older players could build on the momentum from 2008.

Tech will travel north to Ontario on Oct. 2 and return Oct. 6. In between those days, Tech will play three games versus two different Canadian opponents. On Oct. 3 and 5, Tech will go up against the University of Windsor, and on Oct. 6 the Jackets will play the University of Western Ontario.

All three games will be played at Windsor’s St. Denis Centre. Although the scheduling of these games may seem strange, it is not unprecedented. In fact, Tech is not the only American college basketball team to visit Windsor this season. Before playing the Jackets, the University of Windsor will host the Ohio State Buckeyes on Aug. 28 and 29.

Towson University, a conference rival of Georgia State in the Colonial Athletic Association, will also travel north of the border to play five games against Canadian teams. The University of Windsor will host the Jackets first. Unfortunately, the Jackets will not get a chance to face off against Greg Surmacz, a 6-foot-8 power forward who emerged as one of the best junior players in Canada, even earning All-Canadian honors. Surmacz recently graduated and has signed to play professionally with the Polish club AZS Koszalin; still, the Jackets will take on a Lancers roster that returns several other key players and, like Tech, will welcome a large incoming freshman class this year.

Tech’s second opponent, the University of Western Ontario, will be struggling to find a leader after losing its two best players from last year. Point guard Matt Curtis and power forward Brad Smith both graduated from the team last spring. The duo helped lead the Mustangs to a 19-3 regular season finish and tie for third in the conference. Smith broke the Mustangs’ all-time scoring record last season and recently signed a contract to play professionally with the Kent Crusaders of the English Basketball League (EBL).

The Jackets will have to play a number of quality non-conference foes before the ACC schedule begins. Tech’s first official game is against Florida A&M &O on November 14. After that, the Jackets will travel to Puerto Rico for the O’Reilly Auto Parts Puerto Rico Tip-Off. There they will take on a 2009 NCAA tournament team in the Dayton Flyers and, with a win, would move on to face either Villanova or George Mason, both of which have reached the NCAA Final Four in recent years.

When the team returns from Puerto Rico, the Jackets will play host to Mercer (Nov. 27). Siena (Dec. 2), and Southern California (Dec. 5). After those three tough games, the schedule sets up nicely for the Jackets including three games against smaller North Carolina schools, and home games against Atlantic-10 schools Bluff and Kennesaw State. Tech travels to Athens on Jan. 5 to take on the Bulldogs. The Jackets will finish the non-conference schedule at home against Kentucky State on January 31.

One team missing from the schedule is an opponent from the Big Ten Conference. Since 1999, ACC teams have played against Big Ten teams in a series known as the ACC-Big Ten Challenge. In this series, all eleven of the Big Ten teams will play eleven teams from the ACC. This year, Tech is the ACC team left out of the series for the first time since 1999.

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The Jackets will make their first international offseason trip since 1991 when they travel north for three exhibition games. Read more about the series on page 25.

The 2009-10 Georgia Tech Men’s Basketball Schedule

By Steven Cappetta
Assistant Sports Editor

Oct. 3-5 Exhibition Series (Canada)
Nov. 8 Indiana Univ. of Pa. (Exhibition)
Nov. 14 FLORIDA A&M
Nov. 19-22 Puerto Rico Tip-Off
Nov. 27 MERCER
Dec. 2 SIENA
Dec. 5 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Dec. 14 at Tennessee-Chattanooga
Dec. 16 ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF
Dec. 20 FLORIDA STATE
Dec. 22 KENNESAW STATE
Dec. 29 WINSTON-SALEM STATE
Jan. 2 at UNC Charlotte
Jan. 5 at Georgia
Jan. 9 DUKE
Jan. 13 at Virginia
Jan. 16 at North Carolina
Jan. 19 CLEMSON
Jan. 24 at Florida State
Jan. 28 WAKE FOREST
Jan. 30 KENTUCKY STATE
Feb. 3 at Duke
Feb. 6 NC STATE
Feb. 10 at Miami
Feb. 13 at Wake Forest
Feb. 16 NORTH CAROLINA
Feb. 20 at Maryland
Feb. 27 BOSTON COLLEGE
Mar. 2 at Clemson
Mar. 6 VIRGINIA TECH
Mar. 11-14 ACC Tournament (Greensboro, N.C)

The Jackets faced the De- mon Deacons twice last season, winning one and dropping one. In the first meeting, Tech earned its first conference win with an exciting 76-74 upset of the then-No. 6 Deacons. Wake must replace James Johnson and Jeff Teague, but Al-Farouq Aminu’s return and a solid re- cruiting class should keep them competitive.

The 2008-09 ACC champs will look to repeat and have the tools to do it. Kyle Singler will return to lead the Blue Devils, who should be strong once again despite losing stars Gerald Henderson and Greg Paulus. There is concern that the team lacks depth in the backcourt, but under head coach Mike Krzyzewski, Duke should continue to thrive in the ACC.

The 2009 NCAA champions return only one starter from last season, but a series of top-notch recruiting classes mean the team has plenty of talent. Even this early they look to be atop the rankings and ACC. Last year the Tar Heels overtook Tech 104-74, pulling away in the second half after the Jackets kept it close through 20 minutes. The revamped Jackets will look to pull the upset in one of the teams’ two meetings.

The Jackets will travel to Atl- ens for this season’s ri- valry game. Last season the Jackets pulled out a 67-62 victory, rallying back from a late 13-point deficit. New Georgia coach Mark Fox will look to turn things around in this year’s meeting.

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**Falconi falls in U.S. Open qualifying**

By Steven Cappetta  
Assistant Sports Editor

Sophomore Irina Falconi became the third player in Tech history to participate in the U.S. Open when she earned a wild card from the United States Tennis Association for this past Tuesday in the women's qualifying singles draw in Flushing Meadows, N.Y.

Her entry as a wild card into the Open was due to her success on the USTA Pro Circuit over this past summer. Falconi won a pair of USTA Pro Circuit singles titles and one doubles title as she swept through the Norman Wiker-Tennis Experience in Atlanta, Ga., and the Heartland Clinic USTA Women's Classic in St. Joseph, Mo.

Falconi had to win three matches to qualify for the main draw. The qualifying round consisted of 128 women competing for 16 spots in the U.S. Open singles draw.

She was one of only two college players competing in the final Grand Slam of the season, but did not get too far. In the opening round this past Tuesday, Falconi dropped her match to University of Florida freshman Lauren Ebrem at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center.

Falconi was tied at 4-4 in the first set, but Ebrem was able to break her serve and hold for the set. Ebrem held strong in the second set to finish her 6-4, 6-1 victory, eliminating the rising Tech sophomore.

The only other Jackets to compete in the U.S. Open have been senior Amanda McDowell (last year) and Kristi Miller (2005 - doubles). Neither fared all that well in the Open, as neither fared all that well in the Open, as

**Volleyball season starting up**

By Nishant Prasad  
Sports Editor

For the second straight season, Tech's volleyball team will begin its season against an all-too-familiar rival. The Jackets open the 2009 season tonight against the University of Georgia tonight in O'Keefe Gymnasium.

The Tech-UGA game will be one of two played on the first day of the Georgia Tech season, with the second game being one of two played on the first day of the Georgia Tech season.

**Jackets open season tonight against Georgia**

By Nishant Prasad  
Sports Editor

For the second straight season, Tech's volleyball team will begin its season against an all-too-familiar rival. The Jackets open the 2009 season tonight against the University of Georgia tonight in O'Keefe Gymnasium.

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**Tech A-back lineup shaping up as season approaches**

By Nishant Prasad  
Sports Editor

Tech's football team top-notch starters but very little depth at the A-back position in 2008. Several true freshmen ended up in key reserve roles due to a lack of personnel, and luckily the team was able to avoid any long-term injuries to its most important players at the position.

The outlook for 2009 is far brighter. As practice wraps up and the season approaches, neither quality nor depth at A-back is a concern in the slightest. Both of last year's starters return, none of the key members of the rotation are gone, and the team has added weapons at the position.

With junior Jonathan Dwyer appearing primed to make the team's backfield one of the best units in the nation.

A number of players have been seeing time at the position throughout practice, and it remains unclear who will end up in the two starting spots on opening day.

The one name that would seemingly be certain is redshirt sophomore Roddy Jones; however, Jones dislocated his wrist in June and has had to sit out all contact drills during practice. His status for the season opener against Jacksonville State has been uncertain, but he had his cast removed on Tuesday and a day later, Head Coach Paul Johnson said that Jones would likely be able to play in the season opener against Jacksonville State.

The Jackets could certainly use his skills, as Jones was third on the team with 690 rushing yards last season and five total touchdowns, both of which were tops among A-backs, and he averaged a team-high 8.5 yards per carry.

Junior Lucas Cox started every game last season opposite Jones, providing a very different presence on the other side of the line. At six feet and 232 pounds, Cox played the role of bruiser last season, emerging as a strong blocker and power runner to complement Jones’s agility and big-play ability.

Cox was not exactly slow either, as he gained 200 yards on the ground last season with an average of 7.7 yards per carry. He saw time at B-back as well last season in goal-line and other short-yardage situations.

He expects to see time at that...