Staff Picks

Oct. 17

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* Staff picks were conducted for Weeks 5 and 6 of the season. The results for those weeks are provided below.

Prasadh: 7-9 in Week 5, 10-7 in Week 6 (R. Davis and A. Mitchell in Week 5, A. Mitchell in Week 6)

Staff: 6-10 in Week 5, 10-7 in Week 6 (picking Oklahoma in Week 5 was legitimate; Vandy, not so much)

Cappetta: 9-7 in Week 5, 8-9 in Week 6 (finally lost the lead, but could make the rest look silly if OSU wins)

Hoffman: 10-6 in Week 5, 10-7 in Week 6 (frequently going against the grain just for fun; so far, so good)

Lee: 6-10 in Week 5, 10-7 in Week 6 (picking Oklahoma in Week 5 was legitimate; Vandy, not so much)

Prasadh: 7-9 in Week 5, 11-6 in Week 6 (R. Davis and A. Mitchell in Week 5, A. Mitchell in Week 6)
Men’s tennis performs well at UGA tourney

The men’s tennis team combined to go 21-7 in singles play and 7-5 in doubles play in last weekend’s Bulldog Scramble from Oct. 9-11. Junior Miguel Mugaruza and sophomore Dusan Miljevic both went 4-0, and junior Ryan Smith went 3-0 to lead a strong overall performance.

Junior Guillermo Gomez competed at the ITA All-American Championships last weekend. Gomez fell in the main draw but won three consolation matches before an injury forced him to retire.

Swim & Dive wins three over weekend

Last weekend, the men’s swimming and diving team earned wins over Clemson and Western Kentucky, while the women’s team beat Miami, tied WKU and fell to Clemson in the annual Parent’s Weekend meet.

Sophomore swimmer Nigel Plummer won the men’s 50-free with a time of 23.84 seconds, and senior diver Hannah Krimm set a school record with a score of 307.60 in the one-meter dive.
Volleyball tops Maryland, BC to move to 6-1 in ACC

By Steven Cappetta
Assistant Sports Editor

Tech’s volleyball team continued ACC play over the past two weeks with four matches. For the first weekend in Oct. the Jackets traveled to the state of Florida, where they met Florida State on Friday and Miami on Sunday. In the team’s first match, Tech upset the No. 17 Seminoles in five sets to win 3-2 (19-25, 27-25, 15-25, 27-25, 16-14). Two days later the Jackets saw their first ACC loss of the season in Miami as the Hurricanes posted a 3-2 win (22-25, 26-24, 29-31, 27-25, 9-15).

Tech hosted two matches this past weekend as it faced Maryland last Friday and then Boston College on Saturday. The Jackets swept both opponents, winning 3-0 (25-15, 25-18, 25-22) over Maryland and then topping the Eagles 3-0 (25-16, 25-20, 25-13). With the latest wins, Tech improved to 12-5 overall and 6-1 in the ACC.

In the Jackets’ first set against Maryland, they cruised to a 25-15 win behind six kills from sophomore middle blocker Asia Stawicka. The Terrapins closed to within 5-4 early on, but Tech did not allow Maryland to win consecutive points until the very end of the set, at which point they led 24-13. In the second set, Tech won the first three points on kills from three different players. Sophomore outside hitter Bailey Hunter had seven kills in the set, and the Jackets built an 18-8 lead as they picked up a 25-18 set victory to pull ahead 2-0 in the match.

The beginning of set three saw the Terrapins off to a strong start, as they went on a 6-1 run to build an 8-5 lead. Tech battled back, and the set was close throughout with seven lead changes. Maryland managed to open up a 22-19 lead late, but Tech rebounded to win the last six points, finishing on a Tippins service ace to take the set 25-22 and sweep the match.

Hunter had a team-high 15 kills to lead the Jackets’ attack. Stawicka and senior outside hitter Christy DeMichelis also had double-digit kills, and Stawicka hit .625 on the day. Junior setter Mary Ashley Tippins had 45 assists. On the defensive side, junior libero Jordan McCullers had 17 digs and freshman outside hitter Susan Carlson recorded 15 digs in the match.

Against Boston College on Saturday, Tech fell behind early in the opening set but went on a 9-2 run that included two service aces and kills by five players. The Eagles battled to within 19-16, but Tech won the final six points of the opening set to take the match. In set number two, senior middle blocker Brittany Roderick had three early kills to help Tech open a small lead, but BC stayed close throughout. With the score tied at 13, DeMichelis and freshman rightside hitter Monique Mead helped spark Tech to pull ahead, and Hunter landed the final kill as the Jackets took the set 25-20.

Early 5-1 and 5-0 runs helped the Jackets break open a 15-8 lead in the third set, but they were unable to put the game away. The Eagles, down 25-16, ran off six straight points, but Tech took advantage of a BC attack error and pulled out a 25-23 victory to complete their second straight sweep. Mead led the attack with 13 kills and a .524 hit percentage. She contributed on the defensive end too with four block assists and eight digs. Hunter had 12 kills as she reached the 10-kill plateau for the 14th straight game. Tippins notched 44 assists and three block assists, and McCullers recorded 15 digs in the match.

The Jackets will travel to the state of Virginia this weekend to continue ACC play. Tech will take on Virginia Tech today and then go to Charlottesville to take on Virginia tomorrow. Tech is 10-0 at home this season and will have a chance to improve its 2-5 mark on the road, as the Jackets will be away for six of their next eight games.
No. 4 Virginia Tech makes its second trip to Atlanta this season on Saturday night. The Hokies met Alabama in the Georgia Dome on Sept. 5 in the Chick-Fil-A Kickoff Game. The Crimson Tide won 34-17 in the season opener for both teams, but the Hokies have not lost a game since then. They picked up two wins over ranked opponents Nebraska and Miami to close out Sept., and they are coming off their best statistical performance of the season in their 48-14 win over Boston College last week.

Virginia Tech was the favorite to win the ACC coming into the season, but they suffered a big loss when running back Darren Evans went down with a torn ACL. The sophomore Evans led the Hokies in rushing last season and finished second in ACC Player of the Year voting. However, his backup, redshirt freshman Ryan Williams, has proven more than capable of handling the starting job. Williams leads the ACC in rushing this season with 734 yards, and he has scored nine touchdowns. Josh Oglesby and David Wilson have been solid as Williams’ backups and have provided plenty of depth at running back.

The key player for the Hokies on offense, though, is quarterback Tyrod Taylor. The junior Taylor’s passing ability was a question mark heading into this season, but Taylor has silenced his critics so far. He has thrown for 995 yards and eight touchdowns this season and has not thrown an interception in his last four games. The Hokies’ defense completely held Boston College’s offense in check during their Saturday meeting, holding the visiting Eagles to just three total yards in the first half.

PREDICTION: Tech 27, VT 23

By Alex Mitchell, Contributing Writer

Ranked No. 19 in the nation, the Jackets hope their offense continues to roll as they look to join the top of the ACC Coastal Division against the Hokies. Last week, the Jackets earned their first-ever win in Tallahassee when they beat Florida State 49-44. The offense did not have to punt once in the game, notching several big plays in the first half and controlling the ball for most of the second half as the team racked up 401 yards on the ground. The defense struggled in the first half but rebounded to make some early stops in the second.

Tech’s option attack has been successful this season, as the team has 1,662 rushing yards so far. The individual leaders on the ground are junior B-back Jonathan Dwyer, who has 511 yards on 79 carries, and junior quarterback Josh Nesbitt, who has 563 yards on 128 carries. Nesbitt will look to build on a strong performance against Florida State, against whom he ran 27 times for 140 yards and three touchdowns and threw a 73-yard touchdown pass to junior wide receiver Demaryius Thomas. Tech continued to get solid play from the A-backs, including a 60-yard run by Allen to set up Tech’s second touchdown.

While the offense has been strong, the defense has raised questions as to its effectiveness. The unit has been hurt by injuries and has generally performed below expectations, and recent changes to the defensive scheme have not helped, as the Jackets have allowed 75 points in their last two games after holding North Carolina to seven points. Last week, the Jackets struggled to generate a pass rush, and Ponder and his receivers had no trouble attacking the Tech secondary through the air. Tech’s defense will face a challenge this week in dual-threat Virginia Tech quarterback Tyrod Taylor, and the Hokies’ offense features speed and talent throughout the unit. Even if the Jackets’ offense plays well, the team will need the defense to make some stops in order to stay in the game.

2009 Study & Work Abroad Fair
Tuesday, October 20th, Student Center Ballroom
10 am - 2 pm
**Sports**

**Football wins shootout against Seminoles**

**Jackets rack up 401 rushing yards, defeat FSU 49-44 in Tallahassee**

No. 19 Tech defeated Florida State for its first-ever road win against the Seminoles on Saturday night, 49-44.

The two teams combined for nearly 1,100 yards of total offense, 51 first downs, 13 touchdowns and 10 drives of 60 yards or more. The teams combined for just one punt during the game.

"If we had to punt, we probably wouldn’t have won the game," said Head Coach Paul Johnson.

Junior quarterback Josh Nesbitt led Tech’s offense with 27 carries for 143 yards and 131 yards passing. He had four total touchdowns. Junior A-back Jonathan Dwyer had his second 100-yard rushing game for the season, carrying the ball 14 times for 106 yards and two touchdowns.

There were 10 offensive possessions between the two teams in the first half, and all but Tech’s brief last drive ended in a touchdown. The teams went into halftime with FSU ahead 35-28.

Neither team had very favor.

"We talked at halftime and I told them there was not a difference between [this] game and a 7-0 game…We were going to get the ball first and we just had to get a couple of stops," Johnson said.

On Tech’s first possession in the second half, Josh Nesbitt fumbled the snap at Tech’s 24-yard line to set FSU’s offense up deep in Tech territory. The defense made its first stop of the night.

Tech’s men’s and women’s rugby teams emerged victorious at last weekend’s Georgia Rugby Union state tournament at Georgia Southern University. Both teams defeated Georgia in their respective championship games to secure the title in the de facto state championship tournament.

The GRU tournament brings together several schools from around the South, including several of Tech’s local rivals. The men’s club has traditionally been successful at the annual tournament, and this year’s victory marked their third GRU title in the last four years.

For the women’s team, the win marked a major milestone for the program, which earned its first GRU title since the club was chartered in 2006.

"That much change in such a short amount of time is awesome. The way this team’s come together…to see our guys beat UGA and get their trophy, and for us to follow right behind them and beat UGA again and bring the trophy home was just an amazing feeling," said senior back and women’s team captain Emily Woods.

In the men’s tournament, Tech was in a three-team pool with Auburn and Armstrong Atlantic State. The Jackets had no trouble taking down their pool opponents, defeating Armstrong Atlantic 45-7 and beating Auburn 55-0 despite rough weather conditions. They advanced to the semi-finals to face Georgia Southern, and while the host Eagles led for most of the game, a late score gave Tech an edge and the Jackets went on to win 8-5.

The win over Southern put Tech in the title game, and Georgia’s 7-0 win over Kennesaw State set up a finals matchup between the two. Tech and Georgia played a close match throughout, but the Jackets secured a lead and held on for the 10-6 victory to win the tournament.

The women’s team had not yet built the reputation of the men’s squad, and as a result they were able to take advantage of opponents who underestimated them, including the tournament hosts in their first match.

"Georgia Southern had a say in who played what and when, and they were excited about playing [a supposedly] easy warm-up game. We came straight out of the gate and scored two unanswered, and it…woke them up a little bit. The final score was about 24-5, so it was fantastic," Woods said.

Later in early-round play, Tech actually faced Georgia, but inclement weather cut the match short.