The Jackets’ backcourt this season will largely look similar to that of last year’s team. Shooting guard Lewis Clinch is gone, but the addition of a few new players and the return of several key starters will add much needed depth at the guard positions.

Sophomore guard Iman Shumpert, who became the de facto point guard last year due to injuries, will be one of the starters at guard. Although he led the team last year with 116 turnovers, the former five-star recruit improved throughout the season and exhibited poise and ability that will certainly continue to develop with experience. Shumpert became the team’s go-to option and will set out to further establish himself as a leader on the court.

Joining him in the backcourt will be redshirt senior D’Andre Bell, who missed last season after being diagnosed with spinal stenosis. The versatile Bell, who has played both wing positions and point guard for Tech, will provide the Jackets with much needed experience and depth in the backcourt. Bell averaged nearly 25 minutes per game during the 2007-2008 season and was regarded as the team’s best on-ball defender.

The third starter in the backcourt, who will be the main point guard for the Jackets, remains to be seen. Junior Moe Miller split ball-handling duties with Shumpert last season, but Miller suffered a concussion in late Sept., his third in the last 12 months. Still, he has been cleared to practice and played in Tech’s recent scrimmage.

The other candidate to start is freshman Mon Udoh, whom Head Coach Paul Hewitt has praised repeatedly. Udoh averaged 20.1 points and shot 54% from three-point range in leading Miller Grove High School to the Class AAAA state title. He is a quick left-hander who will look to leverage his speed to propel Tech’s fast-break mentality.

The starters will have plenty of help, as the backcourt depth has improved this season. The two main reserve guards from last season return as well, and those two—junior Lance Storrs and sophomore Nick Foreman—will see the majority of the backcourt minutes.

If Miller is able to stay healthy, and if Shumpert can build off of his success from last year and reduce his turnover numbers, look for the Jackets’ backcourt to be faster, stronger, and deeper all season long.

During the 2008-09 season the Jackets stumbled to a 2-14 record in ACC play, Tech increasingly struggled as the year went on at getting the ball to the post. Then-sophomore forward Gani Lawal was often in double teams, and then-junior Zachery Peacock, a natural power forward, had to play out of position until the Jackets switched to a three-guard scheme. This season, an influx of talent should make Tech’s frontcourt a force.

Lawal provided a strong inside presence for the Jackets last season as the focal point of Tech’s offensive gameplan. He finished with 15.1 points per game and 9.5 rebounds per game and had double-digit points in 26 of 31 games. Tech’s fortunes rose and fell with his play; notably, he had 25 points and 10 rebounds in the upset of No. 6 Wake Forest and posted 20 points and 14 rebounds in the ACC tournament win over Clemson, but he failed to reach a double-double in many of Tech’s losses.

This year, the Jackets’ talent in the frontcourt should receive an upgrade as they welcome freshman Derrick Favors to their roster. In his time at South Atlanta high school, Favors was team captain for three years and led South Atlanta to a Class AAA state championship during his senior year. He earned numerous accolades after the season ended, including several Player of the Year honors and the MVP award in the McDonald’s All-American game. During his senior season, the four time all-state selection averaged 28.1 points, 13.3 rebounds and 5.0 blocked shots.

Favors provides a welcomed post presence to compliment the 6-foot-9 Daniel Miller. Miller stands 6-foot-11 and weighs 252 pounds. He should provide a strong presence near the basket. Miller, a native of Loganville, Ga., originally committed to Georgia but switched to Tech.

Lawal and Favors, the Jackets have a combination of talent that the team lacked last year. Peacock will be the serve forward; he started 30 games last year and posted 9.2 points, 13.3 rebounds and 5.0 blocked shots during that year.

He should provide a strong presence near the basket. Miller, a native of Loganville, Ga., originally committed to Georgia but switched to Tech.

Head Coach Paul Hewitt looks to maintain an up-tempo pace, but he acknowledged that the team plans to play more inside-out basketball this year and take advantage of their talent on the front line.

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Roster Changes

Heading into the 2009-2010 season, the Jackets roster has seen small yet significant changes. Two key starters from last season's squad graduated, but Head Coach Paul Hewitt has brought in a talented recruiting class to help turn the team around after last season's 12-19 finish.

The most notable losses for Tech are forward Alade Aminu and guard Lewis Clinch, each of whom completed his fourth year of eligibility last season. The 6-foot-10 Aminu recorded 49 blocks and shot 52.2% from the field last season. Clinch was academically ineligible for the first half of the season, but after returning he led the Jackets with 15.5 points per game.

In addition to Aminu and Clinch, Tech saw the departures of forward Bassirou Dieng and guard Gary Cage, both of whom also finished out their eligibility last year.

As for roster additions, there are many, and the most prominent newcomer is forward Derrick Favors. His commitment to Tech has generated plenty of enthusiasm, though many speculate that Favors is likely to leave early for the NBA draft, perhaps after his freshman season.

Five other freshmen—two guard and three forwards—offer depth and talent to a strong roster. Of the guards, Mfon Udofia could start from day one at the point, and Glen Rice Jr. is the son of the former NBA three-point ace of the same name. Forward-center Daniel Miller offers plenty of muscle in the post game, and forward Brian Oliver will be a reserve at the wing. Forward Kammeon Holsey, an athletic power forward, has taken a medical redshirt for 2009-10 after tearing his ACL.

In addition to bringing in a solid recruiting class, Tech looks forward to the return of two veterans whose futures were in question. Redshirt senior guard/forward D’Andre Bell returns to the Jackets after sitting out 2008-09 with a medical redshirt, and junior forward/center Gani Lawal returns to the Jackets after withdrawing from the NBA Draft. The return of the two stars, coupled with the impact of the freshmen, should help the Jackets skip a rebuilding period and return to contention right away.

Coaching Staff

Head Coach Paul Hewitt returns to the sideline for his ninth season in charge of the Jackets. During his previous eight seasons at Tech, Hewitt has compiled an overall record of 154-131 and has guided Tech to four NCAA tournament appearances, including the 2004 run to the national title game. Known for his strong recruiting ability, Hewitt has brought in one of the nation’s strongest freshman classes to help turn the team around after last season’s 12-19 finish.

In addition to Hewitt bringing back most of his coaching staff from last season, Assistant coaches Peter Zaharis and John O’Connor have been with the staff for several years, as has Director of Operations Willie Reese, a Tech basketball alum. The lone newcomer is assistant coach Darryl LaBarrie, who also played at Tech from 1998-2001 and was on Hewitt’s staff in the 2004-05 season as a graduate assistant.

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had 15 digs while junior Mary Ashley Tippins put up 53 assists. In Tech’s second matchup against N.C. State, Tech swept all three sets to take the match.

The first set was close, with neither team leading by more than three points most of the way, but Tech managed to pull away in the end. A three-point run concluded with an ace from sophomore outsider hitter Alison Campbell, and Tech won the first set 25-20.

The second set saw Tech initially fall behind, but the Jackets took advantage of six consecutive Wolfpack attack errors to go ahead 9-4. The Jackets were in control as they won 11 of the final 13 points to take the set 25-14.

The third set proved to be a tough one for both teams as neither one was able to break their lead open by more than four points. Tech was able to pull ahead 23-19 late in the match, and victory appeared to be in sight, but the Wolfpack closed to within one point at match point. A Medd kill gave the Jackets the point to close out the set, 25-23, and secure the sweep for their tenth ACC victory.

DeMichelis recorded double-figure kills for the second time on the weekend, notching a team-high 13 kills. She was the only Tech player to have ten or more kills in the short match. Roderick and sophomore Bailey Hunter had nine and eight kills respectively.

A strong defensive effort helped the Jackets overcome struggles on offense. The Jackets hit just .165 as a team on the day, but they held N.C. State to a .000 hit percentage and forced 26 attack errors.

McCullers posted 11 digs and Tippins accounted for 26 assists.

**Staff Picks**

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**Football from page 24**

pull ahead 31-28.

It started to feel like one of those nights, but we stopped them on the three-yard line, and it was a turning point in the game,” said Defensive Coordinator Dave Wommack.

The Jackets started their first drive of the second half with a 41-yard run from Dwyer. Tech closed in on the end zone and it looked as though Neshbir would add a third touchdown run, but he fumbled at the Vanderbilt three-yard line and the Commodores recovered.

The Jackets held Vanderbilt to just three yards on the ensuing drive and forced a punt. Tech took over at Vanderbilt’s 40-yard line and turned in a 10-play drive that included Peoples, Neshbir, Jones, and Thomas each touching the ball. Dwyer capped it with a three-yard touchdown, and the Jackets took the lead 35-31.

Vanderbilt looked to answer, but receiver Jamie Graham fumbled on the first play of the drive, and the Jackets took over on the Vanderbilt 19-yard line. Jones took a pitch for 16 yards and was tackled at the Vanderbilt three-yard line. Dwyer then punched it into the end zone for his third touchdown of the game, giving the Jackets a more comfortable 42-31 lead.

Dwyer would finish the game with a career-high 186 rushing yards on 22 carries and the three touchdowns. It marked the junior’s second consecutive 100-yard game on the ground after he ran for 125 yards against Virginia last week.

“I think I’m running with a purpose. Ever since last week, a couple guys on the team challenged me to run the way they know I can run. Every time I touch the ball I just try to make plays,” said Dwyer after the game.

Tech rebounded from allowing a 28-yard run to Norman and forced Vanderbilt to punt. The Jackets took over on their own 13-yard line, and Head Coach Paul Johnson elected to throw deep on the drive’s first play.

Neshbir found Peoples running a seam route down the right sideline, and Peoples ran a remainder of the way for an 87-yard touchdown that gave the Jackets a 49-31 lead.

“We put that play in on the sideline. We felt like [Peoples] might be wide open and he was,” Johnson said after the game.

Norman then fumbled on the ensuing kickoff and the Jackets recovered deep in Vanderbilt territory. Dwyer, Peoples, and Jones all got carries on the 32-yard drive, and Jones ran the ball in for a 15-yard touchdown. Jones finished the game with 80 yards on nine carries and a touchdown.

“It was good to finally get Roddy into the endzone. He has been kind of a blocker lately,” said Johnson.

Jones’ touchdown put the Jackets ahead 56-31, and that would be the final score. Vanderbilt struggled offensively once again and paused, and Johnson brought in Tech’s reserves on offense. Five players carried the ball on the drive, and Jones ran the ball in for a 15-yard touchdown. Jones finished the game with 80 yards on nine carries and a touchdown.

“The Jackets hope to carry the momentum of the win into their game against ACC rival Wake Forest on Saturday afternoon.

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WAKE FOREST at GA. TECH - NOV. 7 (3:30 PM)

By Zack Smith, Contributing Writer

The Demon Deacons travel to Historic Grant Field to take on a top-10 opponent, the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets. Wake Forest holds an overall record of 4-3 and a losing record of 2-3 in the ACC as well. Recently they have struggled with a streak of three losses to opponents Clemson, Navy, and No. 17 Miami.

Last Saturday’s loss to Miami was especially disappointing, for the Deacons. Wake led the entire game and had the upset in sight until a touchdown pass by Miami quarterback Jacory Harris late in the fourth quarter put the Hurricanes ahead 28-27. The Deacons drove downfield but were unable to get in range for a reasonable field goal attempt. Wake freshman kicker Jimmy Newman attempted to make the kick from 60 yards out to win the game, but his try fell short.

Perhaps the most compelling of Wake’s recent losses is that to Head Coach Paul Johnson’s former team, Navy, which still runs a triple-option offense. Navy’s sophomore quarterback Kriss Proctor scored the winning touchdown with a 40-yard run late in the third quarter. Wake Forest’s loss in Annapolis, MD could spell trouble for the team as they head to Atlanta.

This Saturday, Wake Forest will attempt to exploit Georgia Tech’s struggling pass defense with their strong passing game, but the main cog of their offense will be out for the game. Senior quarterback Riley Skinner has accumulated an impressive 2,290 rushing yards and 18 touchdowns this season, but due to a concussion, Skinner did not practice Monday or Tuesday night and his status for Saturday’s game remains uncertain. Wake’s backup quarterback, Ryan McNamara, has only attempted 14 passes this season for 47 yards and no touchdowns.

Wake Forest’s defense ranks near the middle of the ACC, allowing an average 23.3 points and 360 yards per game including 141 per game on the ground. The unit lost two of its best players from last season, including No. 4 overall draft pick Aaron Curry. With Tech’s season-high performance of 597 total yards last Saturday in Nashville, the Deacons could have trouble containing the Jackets’ potent rushing offense.

This weekend the No. 10 Jackets return to the Flats for their first home game in three weeks as they host the Wake Forest Demon Deacons. The meeting will be the first between the teams since 2006.

Last Saturday’s game against Vanderbilt resulted in an offensive slugfest, with Tech rallying in the second half to nearly double Vandy’s score, 56-31. The Jackets’ offense displayed some versatility during the game with less than usual reliance on the triple-option and the ground game. Junior quarterback Josh Nesbitt once again showed the rarely utilized passing ability that helped Tech to score touchdowns this season against opponents like LSU and Mississippi State. Even with two passing touchdowns, the running game did not suffer. Nesbitt ran for two touchdowns and junior B-back Jonathan Dwyer had three, and for the fourth time this season, no field goals were necessary to aid in Tech’s victory.

Tech’s defense struggled in the first half to contain the Commodores’ young but quick running backs, yielding 28 points to one of the statistically weaker offenses in the SEC. However, Tech made adjustments at the half and held Vanderbilt to only three points in the last two quarters. The unit forced three turnovers, three of which led to touchdowns for the Jackets.

Tech’s return to ACC play Saturday marks the team's first meeting with Wake Forest since the 2006 conference championship in Jacksonville, Fla. The Jackets lost the title game 9-6 with neither team scoring a touchdown. Now, as the top ranked team in the ACC, Georgia Tech has the opportunity to revenge the ‘06 loss.

Defensively, the Jackets will continue to rack up rushing yards using the triple-option and could explore a possible integration of more well timed pass plays, primarily to Junior wide receiver Demaryius Thomas, the eighth-ranked receiver in the nation in terms of receiving yards. The defense will need to stop the pass rush against the Deacons if the Jackets want to take pressure off their secondary against Wake quarterback Riley Skinner.

Although a victory against Wake Forest likely would not do much to advance the Jackets in the BCS rankings, it will take them one step closer to winning out the season and earning a spot in the ACC Championship Game.

PREDICTION: Tech 21, Wake 17

For Halloween: HULKAMAINA IS GONNA RUN WILD ON YOU BROTHA! Dear M.F in my thermo, emag, and semiconductors classes, please dont come to class if you’re just going to talk louder than the prof the whole time.

slivers

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sliver box definitely needs to be higher up the page
Get rid of the Regents Test! Silly. My best friend has a 4.0, and he’s failed it 3 times.

I don’t like the library in ANONYGING a deluge today @ GT
girl in trash bag rain jacket pretty cute why is she so hard to find?
yo Eden where the b’$&c and the $&c’?

Short lil obnoxious azn kid, stop talking so loudly in the library! eating chips in class is NOISY. stop it.

slivers few

terrible drivers suck campus floods too much!!! shhh i need a boat. (i’m on a boat)
Tech Basketball season almost here!!!

juniors breakfast...makes my life worth it yay for cancelling class!

sliver

the ratio is bull[poof]. girls are still at a disadvantage why are all the good frats on social! there goes tech’s social life but really, halloween is about to be lame this year because the annoying kid in 1332 and 1050, please sftu when the teacher is talking, don’t make me call you out again in class l)

Hong that was the best sex ever. No homo. :) Tim, your sister is so hawt!!!! I love her name time! :-)

normal people dont talk about weed in front the head TA.

Tim + Sarah

we have a swat team now...for what? the goalposts safety. hrrro...

Jeffrey is my hero.
**Football improves to 8-1 with win at Vandy**

By Alex Mitchell
Contributing Writer

Tech went into Nashville on Saturday night and defeated their second SEC team this season, pulling away in a shootout to defeat the Vanderbilt Commodores 56-31. The victory was the Jackets' eighth of the season, and they are off to their best start since their National Championship season in 1990. The win also gave the Jackets their first touchdown from four yards out.

Tech gained a season-high 597 yards of total offense against the Commodores behind a great running game and a much-improved passing game. Vanderbilt came into the game with the 34-ranked defense in the nation, but Tech was able to hold onto the ball and wear the Commodores down.

The Jackets' offense came out firing after receiving the game's opening kickoff. Junior quarterback Josh Nesbitt handed the ball off to junior B-back Jonathan Dwyer twice in the game. After a seven-yard run on first down, Dwyer took the second handoff and raced to his right, bounded off tacklers, and gained 58 yards. After three more plays, Nesbitt kept the ball himself on the option and scored the Jackets' first touchdown from six yards out.

It did not take long for the Commodores to answer. Vanderbilt quarterback Larry Smith completed all of his passes on a 71-yard drive in which the Commodores' spread offense seemed to confuse the Jackets' defense. Warren Norman had three carries during the possession, and he finished the drive by carrying the ball deep for 37 yards and a touchdown from Smith to tie the game at seven.

The Jackets got off to a quick start on their second drive thanks to a 23-yard run by sophomore A-back Roddy Jones. However, an incomplete pass from Nesbitt to sophomore receiver Tyler Melton on third down forced the Jackets to punt.

Smith and the Commodores capitalized, as on the first play of the drive Smith ran it himself for a 35-yard gain. He suffered a hamstring injury at the end of the play, though, and was forced to leave the game. Running back, Junior Jordan McCullers took over for Smith and was able to complete a pass to running back Zac Stacy for 47-yards. Vanderbilt opted to rush Stacy two times near the goal line and he found his way into the end zone from three yards away to give the Commodores the lead 14-7.

Tech elected to try and pass the ball to tie the game. On the drive's first play, Nesbitt completed a screen pass to junior receiver Demaryius Thomas for a 21-yard gain. After two runs, Nesbitt dropped back again and had sophomore A-back Embry Peoples wide open thirty yards downfield, but Peoples could not haul in the pass. Still, the Jackets continued to attack the Commodore defense on the ground, and a one-yard Nesbitt touchdown run—his second of the day—ended a 12-play drive and tied the game at 14.

Tech's defense finally forced a three-and-out, and the Jackets took over on their own 11-yard line after a punt. Dwyer was able to give the Jackets' offense some room with two carries for eleven yards. Nesbitt then dropped back and found Peoples for a 40-yard gain through the air. After a few more running plays, Nesbitt threw a deep pass to Thomas for a 35-yard touchdown. It was the first of two passing touchdowns for Nesbitt, who finished the day with six completions on 13 attempts for 193 yards and two touchdowns.

“The offensive line” did a great job of giving me time to throw the ball,” Nesbitt said.

Vanderbilt started their next drive on their own 19-yard line and after a first down, Adams ran up the middle but red-shirt sophomore defensive tackle Logan Walls stripped the ball. Tech recovered deep in Vanderbilt territory and needed only two Dwyer runs to reach the end zone. Up 28-14, Tech appeared to be on the verge of pulling away, but Norman took the ensuing kickoff 80 yards for a touchdown and Vanderbilt narrowed the gap to 28-21.

The Commodores then held the Jack- etts to a three-and-out and forced another Tech punt. On the third play of the drive, Stacy broke into the open field and ran 62 yards for a touchdown, and Vanderbilt tied the game at 28. The Jackets were unable to answer before halftime, and the first half ended with the score tied at 28.

The Commodores started the second half with an efficient drive backed by live Norman runs. Adams completed four of six passes on the drive, including a pass that was tipped by junior linebacker Brad Jeff- forson but caught by receiver Udom Umoh and resulted in a 42-yard gain. Tech's de- fense tightened up in the red zone and Van- derbilt stalled, setting for a field goal to

Volleyball rebounds from first home loss, wins pair on road

By Steven Cappetta
Assistant Sports Editor

Followings its first home loss of the season, the volleyball team traveled to North Carolina this weekend and played a pair of ACC matches against the North Carolina Tar Heels and the North Carolina State Wolfpack. Although the Jackets have struggled on the road at times this season, they picked up wins in both match- es, defeating UNC 3-1 (19-25, 25-20, 25-22, 25-18) on Oct. 30 and sweeping N.C. State 3-0 (25-14, 25-16, 25-23) on Oct. 31. The victories moved the team to 16-7 overall and 10-3 in ACC play.

In the Jackets' first matchup against UNC, the Jack- etts dropped the first set but bounced back to win the next three and win the match. The first set was close early on, but UNC outside hitter Branagan Fuller had four kills over a nine-point stretch as UNC took sight of the nine points to pull ahead 11-5. Tech gradually fought back, forcing a tie at 18 all, but they allowed UNC to put together another long run and go ahead 24-18. Fuller’s seventh kill of the set clinched the set for the Tar Heels, 25-19.

The Jackets broke open a close battle in the second set with a five-point run, and they prevented UNC from gaining any momentum en route to a 25-20 victory that tied the match. Tech got off to a strong start in the third set, quickly building a 13-7 lead. UNC crept back and was able to bring it within two at 24-22, but a kill from senior middle blocker Brittany Roderick gave the Jackets the win and the match lead at 2-1.

In the fourth set, Tech jumped out of the gates, taking a 5-1 lead and building it to a 12-6 advantage. The Jack- etts prevented the Tar Heels from taking the lead in the set and cruised to a 25-18 victory that clinched the match.

Five Tech players had nine or more kills, and Roderick had the way with 13 through- out the evening. Senior out- side hitter Chriisy DeMichelis added 12 kills and freshman Monique Mead had 10 while also contributing six digs and six block assists. Sophomore middle blocker Asia Stawicka had nine kills, three solo blocks and three block assists. Sophomore out- side hitter Bailey Hunter also had nine kills; the mark broke a streak of 18 games in which Hunter had recorded double-digi- n assists.