Basketball [from page 28]

would cruise. Shumpert hit three straight three-pointers to put Tech ahead 13-6, appeasing some concerns that the team lacked a reliable outside shooter.

“Whenever you got D’Andre Bell penetrating and Mfon penetrating, and then you’ve got Gani and Favors down there... as long as you’re slotting around there looking for a shot, you can get one off,” Shumpert said.

The Jackets expanded the lead to 19-11, but IUP fought back.้น

Four Tech players scored straight points on a dunk, a jump shot, and a three-pointer to bring IUP to within one point.

The teams traded baskets to close the half. Four Tech players scored as part of an 11-2 run, but IUP took 10 of the final 14 points in the half. Tech led 36-30 at the break.

Helped by three Jackets turnovers, the Crimson Hawks jumped out of the gate in the second half and scored eight unanswered points to take the lead.

Tech stayed close, never allowing IUP to lead by more than three, and took a 54-52 lead on a three-pointer from sophomore guard Lance Storrs. The Jackets increased their lead but were unable to put away the Crimson Hawks, and with less than a minute left, the game was tied at 72.

A Storrs three-pointer with three seconds left was off the mark. IUP had a chance to win, but McLain’s desperate three from midcourt fell just short, and the game went to overtime.

Despite being outscored in the second half 42-36, Tech was able to recover and take control in the extra period. Shumpert said.

“Tech pulled ahead 80-76, and IUP began to foul after missed shots. Junior guard Moe Miller hit four free throws to secure the win. Junior receiver Stephen Hill called the pass but pushed down receiver Chris Givens in the process, keeping the drive alive.

Later in the drive, Wake was given a new set of downs at Tech’s 2-yard line after junior receiver Morgan Burnett was flagged for roughing the kicker on a field goal attempt.

In the second quarter, Tech had a rushing touchdown by junior receiver Stephen Hill called back because of a holding call. The drive ended after one of the failed fourth down conversions.

The Jackets also were flagged for three chop block penalties. They ended the game with a total of seven penalties for 78 yards.

Tech next visits Duke in Durham, N.C. in its last ACC game of 2009. The Jackets can clinch the Coastal Division with a victory.

Staff Picks

Nov. 13-14

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Submit a Sliver!


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Football [from page 28]

power,” Morgan said.

It was a career day for several other players. Redshirt sophomore B-back Preston Lyons scored the first touchdown of his career when he ran 31 yards for a touch down in the first quarter to give Tech a 10-0 lead.

“When you’ve got D’Andre Bell driving past an IUP defender during Sunday’s exhibition game. Bell posted 10 points and nine assists in his first game since 2007.
W-Basketball, Softball ink early signees

The women’s basketball team picked up three signees in the 2010-11 early signing period. The class is led by Dawn Mays, a point guard who was the top-rated player in Fla. The Jackets also picked up ESPN Top 100 wing prospect Tyaunna Marshall and shooting guard Kendra Long.

Pitcher Lindsay Anderson, the defending High School Region 5-AAA Player of the Year, headlines the softball team’s recruiting class. The Jackets also signed catcher Alysha Rudnik, shortstop Ashley Thomas, and utility player Hayley Downs.

Tech alums chosen in NBA D-League draft

Former Tech basketball players Alade Aminu and Lewis Clinic, both seniors last season, were taken in the NBA’s Developmental League draft on Thursday, Nov. 5. Aminu was the Fort Wayne Mad Ants’ first-round pick at No. 10 overall. Clinic was chosen No. 38 overall by the Austin Toros.

Questions from page 26

The lone returning lineman, junior defensive end Derrick Morgan, has been the leader of the defensive line this season and is second in the nation with 11.5 sacks. Often, Morgan has been the only Tech lineman able to get pressure on opposing quarterbacks. Junior defensive end Robert Hall got injured early this season, and that has put more strain on Tech’s inexperienced front four. The Jackets have tried a number of players at the three other spots on the line with mixed results.

The players at those positions have combined for just 1.5 sacks and have struggled at times to defend the run as well. Tech has used a handful of freshmen and sophomores to occupy the three spots alongside Morgan, and as a result the Jackets’ rush defense has been inconsistent this season.

At times, Tech’s run defense has looked good, holding four opponents to under 100 yards on the ground, but there are other times where running backs have gashed the defense. Mississippi State ran for 209 yards against the Jackets, and Vanderbilt ran for 218 yards.

Still, the defensive line played well-contested three-set battle on Nov. 8 to the Bill Moore Tennis Center. Gomez fell in the final match of the National Indoor Collegiate Championship. Gomez was the tournament’s No. 2 seed and with the loss closed out the fall season with an 11-1 record. Falconi just came short of winning her second national title this year, as she won the Riviera/ITA All-American Championship on Oct. 11.

Gomez came back from an early deficit to knock off Virginia’s Michael Shabaz 7-5, 6-3, 6-4 in the semifinals on Saturday. Before the match with Shabaz, Gomez had to overtake three other opponents to go farther in the 32-person tournament. In his first match of the tournament, Auburn’s Tim Puetz forced Gomez to a third set, but Gomez eventually prevailed 6-1, 6-3, 6-4. He advanced to the round of 16, where he faced and defeated Southern California’s Robert Farah 3-6, 6-1, 6-4. In the quarterfinals, he overtook Wisconsin’s Moritz Bau mann 6-4, 6-1.

Falconi was able to defeat Baylor’s Lenka Broosova on Saturday in the semifinals to gain a spot in the finals. Before her match with Broosova, Falconi had to win three other matches.

In the opening round, she knocked off Auburn’s Fani Chichieva 6-0, 7-6. In the round of 16 she was able to beat Clemson’s Josipa Blik 6-2, 6-0. In the quarterfinals she was able to overtake Washington’s Venise Chan 6-0, 6-2.

Both tennis teams have concluded play for the fall season. They will resume action in Jan.

Sport shorts

Guillermo Gomez makes a return at the Bill Moore Tennis Center. Gomez fell in the final match of the National Indoor Collegiate Championship.
Volleyball sweeps two more in second straight road set

By Nishant Prasadh
Sports Editor

Tech volleyball closed out a strong four-game road trip with a pair of sweeps over the weekend. The Jackets took down Boston College 3-0 (25-20, 25-18, 25-19) on Friday night and topped Maryland 3-0 (25-20, 25-23, 25-18) on Saturday, improving to 18-7 on the season to date.

In the final set, Tech took advantage of three consecutive B.C. attack errors and back-to-back Mead kills as part of a 6-0 run that put the Jackets ahead 8-4. Tech led by no fewer than three points for the rest of the match, and senior outside hitter DeMichels picked up five kills in the set as the Jackets clinched the match with a 25-19 victory.

Hunt, who had a streak of 18 consecutive games with 10-plus kills earlier this season, led the Jackets with 13 kills. She also had two solo blocks and hit .440 on the day.

DeMichels had 10 kills and freshman rightside hitter Monique Mead had 12 kills and six digs. Sophomore outside hitter Alison Campbell had a team-high 12 digs and junior libero Jordan McCullers had nine, and junior setter Mary Ashley Tippins notched 40 assists.

The Jackets as a whole hit .367 for the match while holding the Terrapins to a .149 mark.

Mead and Hunter had 11 and 10 kills, respectively, to lead the attack. Hunter hit .500 for the match, and Tech as a team hit .337 compared to Maryland’s .149.
The frontcourt for Tech this year should remain formidable with the return of two solid starters in sophomore center Sasha Goodlett and senior forward Brigette Ardossi. Goodlett, who started 29 games last season, is the tallest player on the team at 6-foot-5. She improved throughout last season and averaged 6.5 points and 3.7 rebounds in her first season with the Jackets. Goodlett came on strong at the end of the year, especially during the NCAA Tournament, and should improve even further in her second season at Tech as the Jackets’ primary center.

Ardossi returns to play her fourth season at power forward for Tech. In her three years with the team, she has proven to be one of Tech’s top post players. Ardossi scored 7.7 points per game and put up a career-high of 143 rebounds and 35 steals last season, and she improved her free throw percentage greatly from her first two seasons, hitting 81.9 percent of her shots from the free throw line. In her three seasons at Tech she has posted a .481 field goal percentage.

Tech has a handful of reliable reserves behind Goodlett and Ardossi. Sophomore center LaQuanaisha Ade, who stands 6-foot-4 and was Goodlett’s main backup last season, posting a .479 field goal percentage. Senior center Tiffany Blackmon offers experience off the bench, and sophomore forward Chelsea Regins provides a versatile option capable of playing in the frontcourt around a Chapter meeting. AUGHHHH!!!!

The backcourt for Tech this year is marked the transition to the ACC. The women’s basketball team will see some new faces in games at the start of the season, and the incoming freshmen should have an impact from the start. This is not necessarily a bad thing for the Jackets though, as experience and depth can be built right from the start of the season. Montgomery should be back before the ACC schedule begins at the beginning of next season with the Jackets, and the team will receive a major boost when she returns. Junior Deja Foster will be relied on heavily this year thanks to the losses. Foster started in 14 games last season, emerging as a reliable option late in the season. Following her freshman season, she improved her numbers drastically in 2008-09 as her scoring average jumped from 1.3 to 9.3 points per game. Foster was named a captain last season along with Williams and should continue to improve as a junior.

There will also be two freshmen that will have an impact in their first seasons with the Jackets. Freshman Sharena Taylor, from Pontiac, Mich., will fill void as a point guard on the roster. Taylor has been ranked the No. 7 point guard in the 2009 freshman class by ESPN. She is a dynamic playmaker and should make an immediate impact for Tech. Freshman shooting guard Jasmine Blain, who stands 6-foot-2, will add depth to the roster. With her height and versatility, she should receive plenty of playing time in Montgomery’s absence.

The women’s basketball team will see some new starters in the backcourt this season. Jacqua Williams and Jasia Hemingway, who played in the majority of the games last year, are gone. Williams, who was a fixture in the starting lineup as the team’s point guard, graduated at the end of a stellar four-year career, and Hemingway—a New Jersey native—chose to transfer to Syracuse University.

Junior guard/forward Alex Montgomery will miss several games to open the season while continuing to rehabilitate her knee. Montgomery had surgery on the knee after tearing her ACL in the ACC Tournament last spring. The 6-foot-1 junior led the team last season with 13.7 points and 6.7 points per game; she has emerged as a star for the Jackets, and the team will receive a major boost when she returns.

Senior center Tiffany Blackmon offers experience off the bench, and sophomore forward Chelsea Regins provides a versatile option capable of playing in the frontcourt around a Chapter meeting.
10 games into 2009, a look back on early-season questions

By Alex Mitchell
Contributing Writer

With their win against Wake Forest last Saturday, Tech's football team can clinch a berth in the ACC Championship game with a win this Saturday against Duke. The Jackets have already won nine games this season, and are ranked No. 7 in the BCS standings.

Tech's success this season has followed an offseason filled with questions and skepticism. After the Jackets completed a surprising 9-4 campaign in their first season under Head Coach Paul Johnson, skeptics wondered if the team would be able to continue that success in year two.

The first and most prominent question mark heading into the season was whether or not Johnson's triple option-based offense would be successful in his second year on the Flats. Skeptics were concerned that with a year's worth of film on the Jackets' offense, opposing coaches would be able to prepare their teams for the reverses, pitches and other ways that Tech attacked defenses.

Early on, Tech's performances did little to quell the concern. The offense had trouble producing substantial yardage in wins over Jacksonville State and Clemson, aside from a pair of long touchdown runs early in those games. Against Miami, Tech failed to crack the 100-yard mark on the ground against a Hurricanes defense that allowed 472 rushing yards in last season's meeting.

The loss at Miami ignited concerns dating back to the Chick-Fil-A Bowl loss to LSU that teams with extra time to prepare could effectively shut down Tech's offense. Since then, though, the Jackets have emerged as one of the nation's most potent offensive teams. The Jackets are second in the nation with 315 rushing yards per game. All those yards have equated to points, and Tech is first in the ACC in scoring with an average of 34.7 points per game.

Johnson has made adjustments to his system when needed, both between and during games. The result is that the Jackets have the best record in the ACC, and Johnson's option attack continues to produce successful results.

Another major question regarding the 2009 season involved the potential of junior B-back Jonathan Dwyer. In 2008, Dwyer was the first sophomore to win the ACC Player of the Year Award. He led the conference in rushing with 1,395 yards and added 12 touchdowns.

Coming into this season, Dwyer was regarded as one of the nation's top running backs and was mentioned as a potential Heisman Trophy candidate if he could build on his success. He received the ACC's Preseason Player of the Year Award in recognition of the high expectations.

Dwyer's first carry of the season seemed to be a good sign. Against Jacksonville State, he caught a pitch on Tech's first offensive play and raced 74 yards for a touchdown.

After that big run, though, Dwyer's production tapered off somewhat. The junior managed just 66 yards against Clemson, and the following week he picked up just seven yards on five carries against Miami and had to leave the game with a shoulder injury.

The injury proved to be minor, and since then Dwyer has rushed for over 100 yards in five of Tech's last seven games. Notably, he broke his single game record with a 186-yard performance on the ground against Vanderbilt two weeks ago, then broke that record again with 189 yards against Wake Forest last week.

Perhaps the biggest questions for Tech, though, were on the other side of the ball. Last season, three seniors—end Michael Johnson and tackles Darryl Richard and Vance Walker—anchored Tech's defensive line, but all three of those players graduated and have gone on to play in the NFL. As a result, Tech has had to find replacements this season.

See Questions, page 23

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK
THE WORLD BEYOND NORTH AVENUE

Monday, November 16th
6:30 pm – 7:00 pm
International Coffee Hour
4th Street Apartments, South Lounge

Tuesday, November 17th
9:30 am – 5:00 pm
Passport on Wheels
Student Center, Room 343
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Phonoset Reception
Student Center, Piedmont Room

Wednesday, November 18th
3:00 pm – 5:30 pm
Career Preparation for the Global Workplace
Student Center, Piedmont Room

Thursday, November 19th
11:30 am – 1:30 pm
Cross Cultural Simulation
Student Center, Crescent Room
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Scholarship Symposium
Student Success Center, President's Suites B,C&D

Saturday, November 21st
7:30 pm – 9:00 pm
Taste of Taiwan – Sponsored by the GT Taiwanese Student Association
Chinese Cultural Center-5377 New Peachtree Rd, Atlanta, GA, 30341

International Education Week is an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. This joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education is part of our efforts to promote programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn, and exchange experiences in the United States.

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All events are FREE!
The No. 7 Jackets hit the road again this weekend to take on the Duke Blue Devils in their final ACC game of the regular season. The Jackets will look to lock up their spot in the conference championship game in Tampa Bay, Fla. by defeating the unranked Blue Devils and remaining the only one-loss team in the ACC.

Last Saturday Tech narrowly defeated the Wake Forest Demon Deacons, 30-27 in overtime. Junior B-back Jonathan Dwyer once again reached a new personal best by rushing for 189 yards on 23 carries. The Jackets were offensively competitive for the whole of the game, but the defense struggled once again to contain Wake’s effective passing game, reminiscent of the Clemson and Miami games in the first half of the season. However, when the pressure was on near the end of the game, the defense got a sack to prevent a game-winning field goal attempt in regulation and held Wake to a field goal in overtime. On Tech’s ensuing drive in overtime, Head Coach Paul Johnson placed the ACC championship game on the line by going for the first down on fourth and inches, and the decision paid off.

This Saturday the Jackets will face another strong passing offense against the Blue Devils in Durham, N.C. Last year, the Jackets shut out the Devils in Bobby Dodd Stadium and controlled the clock with a time of possession of 38:46 and 454 total yards compared to Duke’s meager 132. If Tech can put together another strong offensive showing and shut down Duke’s top-15 passing attack, the odds will be in their favor. Home field advantage may not be an issue for the Jackets, as Tech is 4-1 on the road while Duke is only 2-2 at home.

If the Jackets can secure their final conference win, they will clinch the Coastal Division and secure a spot in the ACC Championship Game on Dec. 5.

The 5-4 Blue Devils host the Jackets this Saturday at Wallace Wade Stadium in Durham, N.C., coming off a disappointing loss to their rival North Carolina. The loss was No. 19 of Duke’s last 20 games against the Tar Heels, who managed to end the Blue Devils’ first three-game win streak since 1989.

Duke’s victories in their recent streak against North Carolina State, Maryland and Virginia were delivered through the air by the team’s main weapon, senior quarterback Thaddeus Lewis, and the team’s young receivers. The team has been more successful this season under second-year Head Coach David Cutcliffe, who coached both Eli and Peyton Manning during their college careers and has helped Lewis become one of the ACC’s top passers.

Duke struggled offensively this past weekend, though, failing to score a touchdown in a game for the first time this season. UNC held the Blue Devils to a season-low 129 yards receiving while safely limiting the offense to just 5.2 yards per carry—well below their season average of 6.2. UNC’s defense played like a well-oiled machine, holding Duke to just two third downs and forcing the Blue Devils to punt on 10 of 12 drives. UNC’s defense has been a strong point this year, allowing just 15.2 points per game, but this is the first time since 2006 that Duke has been held to two touchdowns or fewer than 300 yards.

UNC halted Duke’s passing game, leaving the one-dimensional Blue Devils—who are No. 118 in rushing out of 120 teams in FBS, with 614 rushing yards all season and an average of 2.2 yards per carry—without a leg to stand on. UNC running back Ryan Houston’s strong performance on the ground could be a bad omen for Duke against the No. 2 team in the nation in rushing yards per game. If the defense cannot stop Tech’s spread option offense, it could spell trouble for the Blue Devils and lead to their third conference loss.

Duke will attempt to avoid a repeat of last season’s loss to the Jackets by giving Lewis time to throw and exploiting the gaps in Tech’s pass defense. A victory on Saturday would guarantee Duke at least a .500 finish, making them bowl eligible for the first time since 1995, and it would keep their hopes of a trip to the ACC Championship Game alive.

PREDICTION: Tech 30, Duke 17

By Zack Smith, Contributing Writer
By Hahnming Lee
Business Manager

Tech beat Wake Forest in the Jackets’ first overtime game since the 2003 season, 30-27. The win gave Tech sole possession of first place in the ACC’s Coastal Division.

Head Coach Paul Johnson elected to attempt a fourth-down conversion in overtime while the team was down a field goal. None of the team’s previous four fourth-down attempts in the game had been successful, but junior quarterback Josh Nesbitt fell forward on the sneak for more than the needed one yard and gained a new set of downs. He ran the ball in for the game-winning touchdown on the next play.

“Big-time players make big-time plays when they are called upon,” Nesbitt said.

If the fourth-down play had not been successful, Tech would have attempted a short field goal with Scott Blair to tie the game and play a second overtime.

“You have to play to win. Kids work hard. They put in a lot of time and effort and if we can’t get a half of a yard, we probably don’t deserve to win,” Johnson said.

Tech had called a time-out after lining up in an attempt to draw Wake offside. Afterward, the kicking team did not go on, and instead the offense returned to the field.

“Who wouldn’t want to play for a coach like that who is going to believe in you? With the game on the line, he is going to put it in our hands so that we can do what we are supposed to do,” said junior B-back Jonathan Dwyer.

Dwyer gained 189 yards on 23 carries, surpassing his previous career high of 186 set just a game ago at Vanderbilt. He also surpassed 1,000 yards rushing on the season for the second straight year.

The successful rush and the resulting touchdown were exceptions to the struggles Tech experienced on fourth downs. In the second quarter, Tech was not able to convert a similar play inside of Wake territory. After failing to move the ball forward on third-and-one, the offense stayed on the field for the fourth down attempt. Nesbitt bobbled the snap and recovered it while coming down at a similar spot. After an official time-out for measurement, the ball was measured short of the Wake 38.

The ensuing drive resulted in a Wake field goal to put the Demon Deacons up 17-10. The next three fourth-down attempts also resulted in no gain or negative yardage. Nesbitt short on the next attempt, junior A-back Anthony Allen dropped a pass on the next one and Josh Nesbitt lost his footing and fell on the last one. Three of the attempts came from the Wake 38.

“We kept getting down there in ‘No Man’s Land’ and we begged down. We did not convert on fourth down...we did some things a little bit uncharacteristic of the way we’ve been playing,” Johnson said.

Despite the close score, Tech performed well on offense for much of the game. The offense gained over 400 yards rushing for the third time this season, and three players had 50 rushing yards or more.

In the second half, the defense effectively shut down the Deacons’ offense, holding them to just 113 total yards and getting three sacks.

The total included a crucial sack by junior defensive end Derrick Morgan near the end of the fourth quarter. On third-and-seven from Tech’s 35, Morgan rushed Wake quarterback Riley Skinner and tackled him for a five-yard loss. The sack not only forced a fourth-down, but it also moved the Deacons far enough back that they decided to punt instead of attempting a field goal.

“I swiped at him...I had to muster up my strength and go out there and give it one more play, reach down deep within and get some strength and momentum,” Morgan said.

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