

# Clarence Moore:

## Emotional leader of '04 Final Four team returns as Kentucky State coach

By Nishant Prasadh  
Sports Editor

Tech basketball fans from the historic 2003-04 season could easily recall the energy that Clarence Moore brought to the team as the Jackets' top reserve forward.

When he returned to Alexander Memorial Coliseum on Saturday as the head coach of the Kentucky State (KYSU) Thorobreds, Moore—MGT '04, the Jackets' sixth man and emotional leader for their run to the National Title Game—received a standing ovation from the 8,025

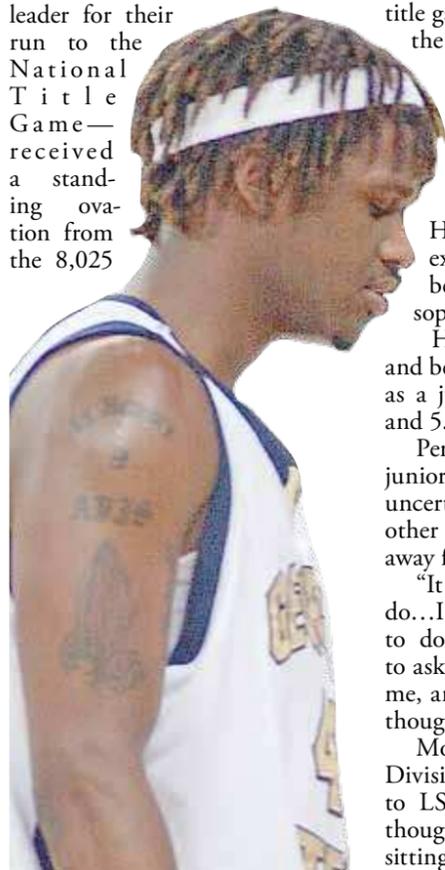


Photo by Jamie Howell / Student Publications

people in attendance.

Moore, who at 28 is one of the youngest coaches in college basketball, found the idea of returning as an opponent fairly strange.

"I almost got lost and I had to have a guy take me to the visitors' locker room. I never knew where that was," Moore said.

Moore committed to Tech and then-Head Coach Bobby Cremins in 1999 after a stellar high school career in Norco, La. He twice led his team to the Class AAAAA title game and won state Player of the Year honors as a senior.

As a freshman in 1999-2000, Moore emerged as a reliable reserve at both forward positions. After Cremins retired and current Head Coach Paul Hewitt took over, Moore was expected to take on a big role before a foot injury ended his sophomore season.

He took a medical redshirt and became a starter the next year as a junior, averaging 9.4 points and 5.4 rebounds per game.

Personal issues arose after his junior season. Homesickness, uncertainty about his future and other concerns forced him to step away from the team.

"It was something I needed to do...I had a lot of opportunities to do some soul-searching, and to ask myself if basketball was for me, and if I loved it as much as I thought I did," Moore said.

Moore tried to transfer to a Division II school for a year and to LSU from there. Ultimately, though, he remained at Tech after sitting out the 2002-03 season.

"[The transfer] just didn't work out. Things happen for a reason, and having those things happen pretty much told me that this was the place where I was supposed to graduate," Moore said.

Moore's decision to return to the team was fueled partly by a conversation with Hewitt.

"I just happened to be passing through his office, and the Final Four was on...and he said, 'If you come back next year, we could go there.' From that point, that was my main focus, coming back and getting ready. I wanted to see if he was telling the truth and if he really believed that, and he did," Moore said.

As a redshirt senior, Moore became Tech's top frontcourt reserve, putting up solid rebounding and steal totals. His most prominent role, though, was as the vocal leader of a star-laden roster.

"In high school I scored 2,600 points, so it's not like I couldn't score the basketball...but that wasn't my role. The year that I sat out, I gave up that responsibility," Moore said. "I really was able to get to people, and...that was the role I had to play for that team."

Moore still contributed on the court. He shined in Tech's overtime victory over No. 4 seed Kansas, contributing 14 points and six rebounds as the Jackets clinched a trip to the Final Four.

Asked about his most prominent memories from the season, Moore highlighted Tech's victory over then-No. 1 Connecticut in the preseason NIT and the entire NCAA Tournament run, but also mentioned one other game.

"This might sound strange, but it was the Georgia game that we lost in overtime...I think it kind of helped us mature, knowing that we weren't perfect," Moore said.

After graduating in 2004,

Moore declined a chance to stay at Tech. "[Coach Hewitt] said the graduate assistant job was open if I wanted it, but...I figured I could go out and work to make some money, then try to get back into coaching, because initially it doesn't pay," Moore said.

Moore cycled through a series of odd jobs, working as an electrician and shipbuilder.

"I found myself wondering, why am I still not happy? I just thought about what I love doing the most and where I would love spending most of my time, and it was basketball," Moore said.

He signed on as an assistant coach at Paideia High School in Atlanta in 2006. A year later he got married, and he and his wife Lynn settled down in Louisville, where he was an assistant at a local high school before being offered an assistant job at KYSU.

Halfway through his first season with KYSU, the head coach was fired, leaving Moore as the interim coach.

Moore, who is now in his second season as interim coach, had no assistant coaches for part of his first season, and five of his 11 players this year did not play college basketball last year.

Moore and his players have worked to overcome their situation. KYSU has been competitive and while they are just 4-13 record through Feb. 3, five of the losses were by three or fewer points.

"Any person that knows the game of basketball and reads stat lines will know that we're definitely right there," Moore said. "My team has fought even when they've been down...they've still found that light at the end of the tunnel."

Moore's description of his players' work ethic sometimes seems to echo his own struggle for success over the years.

"In life, there'll be times when things are good and everything's

going well, and there'll be times when it's just really, really bad. Some people just stop; this team has never stopped. They keep fighting, and I'm proud of them for doing so," Moore said.

Moore is looking to secure the permanent head coaching job with the Thorobreds. He has several factors playing in his favor, including a large payout to KYSU for Saturday's game and the strong work ethic of his team, but the "interim" tag remains.

"He's in an interim position right now, but if they hired him I have a feeling [the players and administration would] be very happy," Hewitt said.

"I would love to be here [KYSU]. But ultimately, it's not my decision. I hope the person that has the authority to make that decision makes it...

in my favor, so I'll keep my fingers crossed," Moore said.

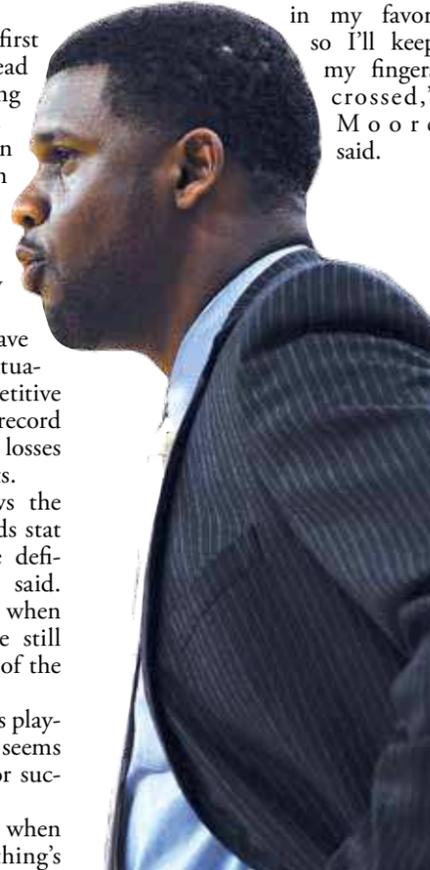


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# Tech football brings in 18 players for 2010 recruiting class

## Running Backs

Charles Perkins, BB/AB Suwanee, Ga. (Collins Hill HS) Ht./Wt.: 6-0 / 190	Deon Hill, AB Phenix City, Ala. (Central HS) Ht./Wt.: 6-0 / 195	Tony Zenon, AB Albany, Ga. (Deerfield HS) Ht./Wt.: 5-7, 156
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## Defensive Backs: Corners

Ryan Ayers, CB Douglasville, Ga. (South Paulding HS) Ht./Wt.: 5-10, 175	B.J. Bostic, CB Louisville, Ga. (Jefferson County HS) Ht./Wt.: 5-10 / 156	Louis Young, CB Olney, Md. (Our Lady of Good Counsel HS) Ht./Wt.: 6-0, 185
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## Defensive Backs: Safeties

Jake Skole, S Roswell, Ga. (Blessed Trinity HS) Ht./Wt.: 6-1, 185	Isaiah Johnson, S Tyrone, Ga. (Sandy Creek HS) Ht./Wt.: 6-2, 175	Fred Holton, S Thomasville, Ga. (Thomasville HS) Ht./Wt.: 6-1, 196
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## Defensive Linemen

Denzel McCoy, DT Duluth, Ga. (Northview HS) Ht./Wt.: 6-4, 275	Shawn Green, DT Loganville, Ga. (Grayson HS) Ht./Wt.: 6-2, 275	Anthony Williams, DE McDonough, Ga. (Union Grove HS) Ht./Wt.: 6-4, 235
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## Linebackers

Jeremiah Attaochu, LB Washington, D.C. (Archbishop Carroll HS) Ht./Wt.: 6-3, 223	Quayshawn Nealy, LB Lakeland, Fla. (Lakeland HS) Ht./Wt.: 6-0, 215
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## Offensive Linemen

Catlin Alford, OG Adairsville, Ga. (Adairsville HS) Ht./Wt.: 6-4, 275	Morgan Bailey, OG Loganville, Ga. (Loganville HS) Ht./Wt.: 6-4, 285
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## Others

Synjyn Days, ATH Powder Springs, Ga. (Hillgrove HS) Ht./Wt.: 6-2, 205	Justin Moore, K Atlanta, Ga. (Marist School) Ht./Wt.: 5-10, 160
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By Alex Mitchell  
Assistant Sports Editor

In his third year on the flats, Head Coach Paul Johnson pulled in a strong class for Tech with 18 total commitments.

The class features a large number of in-state players, with 14 of the 18 total commitments coming from the state of Ga. Johnson continued his trend of focusing on in-state players as Tech signed the same number of recruits from Ga as last year.

Johnson and his staff signed 12 defensive players in an attempt to address the unit's struggles last season and the loss of defensive end Derrick Morgan and safety Morgan Burnett.

Tech added depth at several positions, as the class includes five defensive backs, three defensive linemen, two offensive linemen, three running backs and a kicker.

"We addressed needs at every position and we signed a number of players who are extremely athletic and versatile," Johnson said in an interview with **ramblin-wreck.com**.

Tech started this year's recruiting process earlier than most teams. Running back Charles Perkins from Collins Hill High School in Suwanee, Ga. committed to the Jackets on Jan. 31, 2009. At 6-foot-1 and 205 pounds, Perkins could fill either of Tech's running back positions.

Perkins is also one of three

Tech commitments who have already enrolled in school. He is joined by two fellow Georgia natives, safety Isaiah Johnson and cornerback B.J. Bostic.

To replace the loss of safety Morgan Burnett, Tech signed six defensive backs, three of which will most likely play safety.

Tech's highest-rated commitment according to **espn.com** is among the six. Cornerback Ryan Ayers from Douglasville, Ga. committed to the Jackets before the season and has remained firmly committed since.

One of Tech's safety recruits, Jake Skole, is the brother of Tech baseball's sophomore third baseman Matt Skole. Jake Skole doubled as a receiver in high school but will likely stay on the defensive side for the Jackets.

Another defensive back, Louis Young, had committed to Stanford for most of the offseason, but changed his commitment to Tech one day before the Feb. 3 Signing Day. Young hails from Olney, Md., and he was highly sought after by many schools partly because his height allows him to match up with taller receivers.

Tech picked up commitments from Young and outside linebacker Jeremiah Attaochu thanks in large part from newly hired Defensive Coordinator Al Groh. Groh recruited both players while he was a head coach at Virginia and both players quickly signed with Tech once he joined the Jack-

ets' staff.

The Nigerian-born Attaochu went to high school in Washington, D.C. and is an ideal fit at linebacker in Tech's new 3-4 defense. At 6-foot-3, he brings great size and speed to the Flats, and Attaochu also brings a strong nose for the football. As a senior, Attaochu had four touchdowns by blocking kicks and returning fumbles.

Tech will most likely look internally to replace All-ACC defensive end Derrick Morgan, but Tech did add depth to the defensive line.

Tech picked up two four-star defensive tackles that could start one day in Tech's 3-4 defensive scheme. Shawn Green of Loganville, Ga. and Denzel McCoy from Duluth, Ga. both committed to the Jackets well before Groh's hiring and signed.

On the offensive line, Tech will try to replace departed guard Cord Howard and add depth with two offensive line commitments.

Guard Morgan Bailey, who stands 6-foot-4 and 285 pounds, will likely be a guard for the Jackets. Catlin Alford could also see some time at guard even though Tech recruited him as a tackle.

The Jackets also sought to improve their special teams, as Justin Moore is the first kicker to receive a scholarship offer under the Johnson era. Moore holds the record for the longest successful field goal in Marist School history with a 50-yard field goal.

## Women's from page 24

to make her foul shot and give Tech a commanding 27-17 lead.

Ardossi led the Jackets with 15 points to go along with her seven rebounds, winning ACC Player of the Week for her performance.

Ardossi scored a quick two-

point jumper to start the second half to give Tech a nine-point lead (33-24), and the Jackets never looked back.

Sophomore center Sasha Goodlett canned a jump shot at the 13:39 mark and junior guard Deja Foster scored the Jackets last basket of the game at the 2:06 mark.

Goodlett grabbed eight rebounds in the game, and Goodlett and Foster had 11 points each. Foster also had four assists.

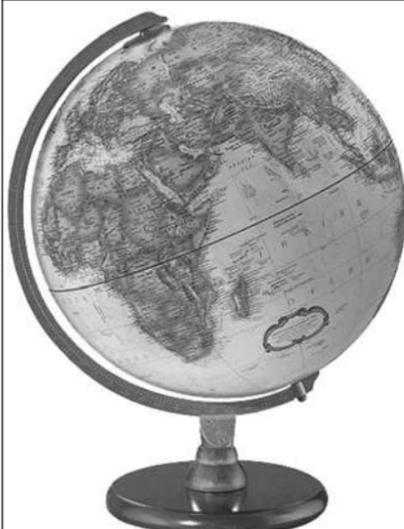
Tech also got good production from its reserve players. Sophomore guard Mo Bennett led the Jackets with nine rebounds and added five points. Sophomore guard Metra Walthour distrib-

uted the ball well and had a team high seven assists. Senior forward Utahya Drye had a double-double for the visiting Hokies (12-9, 2-5) with 15 points and 11 rebounds. However, her team committed a total of 18 turnovers.

The good news for the Jackets is that they won this game. The bad news is that they will have

to find a way to win a conference game on the road because their next two games are at Maryland on Friday, Feb. 5 and at Clemson on Feb. 8.

Losses to those teams would drop the Jackets below .500 in ACC play and would likely cost the Jackets their current No. 25 ranking.



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# Hockey comes up short against D-II Va. Tech, UGA

By Nishant Prasad  
Sports Editor

A season of near-misses continued for Tech's hockey team last weekend, as the Jackets dropped a pair of hard-fought games. The Jackets lost 3-1 against Virginia Tech on Friday Jan. 29, and came up just short against Georgia, falling 4-3 in overtime on Saturday.

"We've been snake-bitten this year," senior left wing and team president Jeremy Spafard said after Saturday's game, in which the Jackets erased a 3-1 deficit but could not complete the comeback.

Friday night's contest saw the Jackets, a Division III club, take on a Division II Hokies squad that was ranked No. 12 in its region. The Hokies were easy favorites going into the game, but the Jackets kept the game close throughout.

The Hokies controlled the puck in the offensive zone early and often, but junior goalie Maxx Lucas held up against an early flurry of Hokie shots.

VT eventually drew first blood when forward Josh Bennett scored with 9:30 left in the opening period, putting the Hokies up 1-0.

The Jackets responded with a well-executed play. Sophomore right wing Matt Zaske fought off a Hokie defenseman for the puck behind the VT net, then handed the puck to Spafard as the senior cut past him toward the right side. Spafard then passed to a waiting Berry, who fired a one-timer past



Photo by John Nakano / Student Publications

**C.J. Layer steps up to save a shot in the Jan. 30 game against Georgia. Layer and Maxx Lucas had solid performances in goal over the weekend.**

the VT goalie with 6:49 to go.

No penalties occurred in the opening period, but three by VT in the second period resulted in an extended 5-on-3 for the Jackets that lasted into the third period. They could not score, though.

Gradually, the Hokies began to control the puck for long spurts and finally got the go-ahead goal with 6:28 left. The Hokies later went on a power play and sealed the game on a goal with 1:30 left.

The Jackets did not get the win, but put up a fight against a deep and talented foe. "They were able to throw out [four lines]... We had to skate up to them," said Head Coach Brian McSparron.

Much of Tech's competitiveness in the game stemmed from the play of Lucas, who made 51 saves for a 94.4 percent save rate.

"I don't have proper words for how well he played—he didn't make any mistakes," Spafard said.

"He said he would be focused...[and] he came out with an A performance," McSparron said.

The Jackets returned to the ice a day later to face Georgia, looking to avenge a pair of losses to the Ice Dogs earlier in the season.

Freshman C.J. Layer got the start at goalie for the Jackets. Layer had a handful of saves early on, but overall neither team had many opportunities in the first 15 minutes of the heavy-hitting contest.

With 3:05 to go, Georgia's Lee Bosma deflected a perimeter shot past Layer to put Georgia up 1-0.

With just 11 seconds left, Berry fired a long wrist shot that beat Ice Dog goalie Vince DeCarlo five-hole, tying the game.

The Ice Dogs had momentum early in the second period. Tech did well in stopping Georgia from getting good angles for shots.

"We [didn't give] them a lot of good scoring opportunities. We worked them to the outside and didn't want to give them the middle of the ice," McSparron said.

Georgia finally broke the tie when defenseman Ryan Benson beat Layer five-hole on a breakaway with 9:54 left in the period.

The final minute saw two Jackets go to the penalty box. The period ended with the score still 2-1, but Georgia had a big edge as the final period began and scored with 18:47 to go to pull ahead 3-1.

The outlook appeared dim for the Jackets as the third period dragged on, but with 5:12 remain-

ing Spafard fired a wrist shot off the goalie's chest and into the net.

"Jeremy stepped up his game... All three of those guys skated well from the second period on," McSparron said of Tech's first line.

Less than a minute later, Berry took a high shot from the perimeter that Zaske deflected past DiCarlo, tying the game 3-3.

Georgia went on a power play with 2:07 remaining, but the Jackets were able to kill the penalty and the game went to overtime.

In overtime both teams were rebuffed by excellent goalie play, and it appeared that the game was headed for a shootout.

It was not to be, though. Georgia crashed the Tech net with 10 seconds left and Layer made a pair of sprawling saves, but the puck rolled across to an Ice Dog forward who scored with just 6.1 seconds remaining, giving Georgia the sudden-death victory.

"Playing three good, hard periods last night look a little bit out of us...but hey, we played all three games against Georgia close and exciting, and unfortunately we just came out on the short end," McSparron said.

"The one good thing to take from this game is that we battled back...but you never enjoy losing that game," Spafard said.

The Jackets have five games left in the season and still have a shot at 10 wins. They begin the final stretch with two games at South Carolina this weekend.

## Tennis from page 24

the ITA National Indoor Team Championships.

The men's tennis team came up short in its attempt to reach the ITA National Indoors, winning their Saturday match against No.

54 Penn State but falling on Sunday to No. 11 Florida.

Bad weather at the host site in Gainesville, Fla. meant that doubles play was postponed, to be used only if the teams were tied after singles play. The Jackets, however, won four singles matches to take the match.

Four matches in, the teams were tied after straight set wins by freshman Magin Ortiga and junior Eliot Potvin and losses by junior Dean O'Brien and freshman Juan Spir.

Junior Guillermo Gomez, the No. 4 player in the country, won 6-2, 7-6 in the first flight to put Tech ahead, and

sophomore Dusan Miljevic came back to win 2-6, 6-1, 6-4 to clinch the match for Tech.

The success was short-lived, though, as Florida blanked Tech the next day.

Florida struck early, defeating the Jackets in doubles to earn them one point.

In singles, seventh-ranked Alexandre Lacroix defeated Gomez 6-1, 3-1. Gomez was forced to retire early due to an ankle injury.

Potvin and junior Miguel Murguruza took their opponents to a third set, but finally fell. None of the Jackets managed to win a singles match and Florida won 7-0.

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## Basketball cruises to two home wins



By Kelvin Kuo / Student Publications

Glen Rice Jr. goes up for a dunk against Kentucky State. Rice was perfect from the field and finished with 15 points.

**By Hahnming Lee**  
Business Manager

Then-No. 22 Tech routed Kentucky State at home 98-50 on Saturday, Jan. 30.

Freshman guard Glen Rice Jr. came off the bench to lead the Jackets in scoring with 15 points. Rice was perfect from the field, making six-of-six attempts including three three-pointers. Three other Tech

players finished the game with double-digit points.

It was a homecoming for KYSU Interim Head Coach Clarence Moore, a key reserve for the Jackets during Tech's Final Four run six years ago.

In the lopsided victory, Tech dominated the Division II team in nearly every statistical category. They made 37-of-52 field goals, nearly 72 percent of their attempts. The

Jackets more than doubled the Thorobreds in rebounds, grabbing 34 rebounds to their 15 boards. KYSU did not register a block while Tech had eight.

The eventual blowout began as a close game. More than five minutes into the game, KYSU was within two at 17-15, but this was the closest the Thorobreds would come for the rest of the game. Tech went on a 37-14 run to widen the deficit to 25 heading into halftime.

With the outcome of the game all but decided early in the second half, Head Coach Paul Hewitt elected to pull the starters from the game.

Tech's reserves had the opportunity to get major playing time. Redshirt senior center Brad Sheehan played 22 minutes, notching seven points and 10 rebounds. Junior guard Moe Miller had 20 minutes of playing time, leading all players with six assists. Junior forward Sam Shew played 10 minutes and had three points.

"I'm very appreciative of how hard those guys come out in practice every day...They've kept a very good attitude about [playing time]," Hewitt said.

Earlier in the week, Tech defeated Wake Forest 79-58 at Alexander Memorial Stadium. It was the second straight year the Jackets had defeated the Demon Deacons at home.

Tech had five players in double figures, with redshirt senior D'Andre Bell leading all scorers with 16 points.

"I've always been a fan of balanced scoring...it spaces the floor out and it makes it easier to get to people," Hewitt said.

Bell scored the last five points of the game, including a dunk after a steal from sophomore guard Iman Shumpert.

"My body [is] coming back

together and all the hard work in the gym [is paying off]," Bell said.

The two teams played a very close first half with six lead changes and no lead bigger than eight. The Deacons had 11 more attempts from the field than Tech but still made two less overall.

Freshman forward Derrick Favors had four blocks in the first half, more than the entire Wake Forest squad in that span. He finished with five. "I wasn't in foul trouble...so I got comfortable," Favors said.

In the second half, Wake Forest scored the first four points to cut the lead to two points at 35-33. Tech responded with a 19-4 run to all but put the game out of reach. Still, the Jackets' recent second-half struggles left at least some doubt about the victory.

"I was still jumpy even though we were up 16," Hewitt said.

Wake Forest outrebounded Tech during the first half, but the Jackets controlled the boards in the second half.

Tech struggled during parts of the game. Up 17 points, the Jackets proceeded to turn the ball over eight times in the next nine minutes and allow the Demon Deacons to cut the lead to 11 points. Still, Tech's defense combined with Wake Forest's defensive struggles allowed Tech to eventually win by 21 points.

"[The plan] was just to keep them off the boards...and outwork those guys. It was a simple game plan," Lawal said.

Wake Forest struggled from three-point range, shooting three-for-18 in the game.

"It's just hard work and contesting shots, there's no secret to it...finding shooters and putting a hand in the face," Hewitt said.

## W-Basketball defeats VT in home battle

**By Alex Mitchell**  
Assistant Sports Editor

The women's basketball team defeated the Hokies of Virginia Tech 61-47 to improve to 18-5 on the season. With the win over an ACC foe, Tech improved to 4-3 in conference play.

All four of the Jackets' conference wins have been at home, and all three of their conference losses have occurred on the road.

The Jackets started Sunday's game off strong with a 6-2 scoring run behind two three-pointers from junior guard Alex Montgomery. Even though she only played ten minutes, Montgomery finished the game with 11 points on only nine shot attempts.

Later in the first half, with Tech up 24-17, senior forward Brigitte Ardossi battled defenders in the low post and made a tough shot while drawing a foul. She would go on

See **Women's**, page 22



By Robert Combier / Student Publications

Deja Foster dribbles past a Virginia Tech defender during Sunday's ACC contest.

## Women's Tennis wins ITA Regional, Men's team tripped up



By John Nakano / Student Publications

Irina Falconi makes a backhand at the Bill Moore Tennis Center. Falconi was named ACC Player of the Week after going undefeated over the weekend.

**By Steven Cappetta**  
Advertising Manager

The No. 10 ranked Tech women's tennis team picked up two victories over ranked opponents in the 2010 ITA Kick-Off Weekend on Jan. 30-31. Tech hosted No. 29 Arizona State on Saturday and No. 34 Kentucky on Sunday, beating each by a 4-2 score.

The wins secured Tech a spot in the ITA National Team Indoor Championships, which begin on Feb. 12.

The Jackets faced the Sun Devils last season for the first time in the second round of the ITA Kick-Off Weekend. Like last season, Tech emerged victorious.

Tech struck first, taking the doubles point for a 1-0 lead. Sophomore Lynn Blau and freshman Elizabeth Kilborn defeated ASU's Sianna Simmons and Amanda Martin 8-0. The Sun Devils evened

the score, but the court one match decided the doubles point as sophomore Irina Falconi and junior Sasha Krupina defeated Kelcy McKenna and Hannah James 8-4.

In singles play Falconi, who is currently ranked No. 1 in the nation, downed McKenna 6-1, 6-4. Nadia Abdala gave ASU its first point of the day as she defeated Krupina 7-6 (7-2), 7-5. The Jackets brought the score to 3-1 when sophomore Viet Ha Ngo overcame Hein 6-4, 4-6, 6-2. McDowell dropped her match to James in three sets, but Kilborn ended the match with a win over Martin 6-1, 6-2, clinching a 4-2 win for Tech.

The next day the Jackets faced Kentucky, which survived No. 24 Alabama the day before, 4-3.

Tech clinched the doubles point with a sweep of all three matches to come out with a 1-0 lead over the Wildcats.

Blau and Kilborn were the first tandem to finish their match, shutting out Nicole Scates and Megan Broderick, 8-0. Sophomore Hillary Davis and Ngo clinched the point, beating Kentucky's Minnette Pinear and Elle Coldiron, 8-2.

Falconi overcame Megan Broderick on the first court in singles 6-2, 6-2, to push the Jackets' lead to 2-0. The Wildcats got onto the board after Caroline Lilley downed Krupina in straight sets 6-4, 6-3, to put the game score to 2-1. Blau then shut out Coldiron 6-0, 6-0, to put Tech up to 3-1. Following a Ngo loss to Christine Johnson, McDowell knocked off Pinear to clinch the match, with the final score in Tech's favor 4-2.

Falconi was named ACC Player of the Week for her performance as the Jackets secured a trip to Wisc. for

See **Tennis**, page 23