Sophomore second baseman Jacob Esch hit an RBI double in the seventh inning to retake the lead, but Xavier tied the game again in the eighth with one run off of three different Tech pitchers. Burnette doubled in the bottom of the eighth inning and Leonida drove him in with a single to give Tech the lead going into the ninth.

Junior pitcher Kevin Jacob came in to close out the game and gave up a leadoff single to start the inning. Two more Musketeers would get on base and just when it looked like Tech would blow the lead, Jacob got a huge strikeout for the first out in the inning. With the bases still loaded, Xavier left fielder Bobby Freking hit a liner back up the middle that hit off Jacob’s leg and bounced to Dietrich. The shortstop fired the ball to second for one out and Esch threw it to first for a game-ending double play.

“We were lucky to win. I don’t think we played very well and I don’t think we pitched well enough,” Hall said.

On Saturday, Feb. 27, junior right-hander Brandon Campton took the mound for the Jackets as they took on Xavier in the second game of the series. Campton shut down the Musketeers allowing only one hit in seven shutout innings.

Tech also used a huge day offensively on route to a 15-0 win. Tech had 15 hits in the game compared to the Musketeers’ two, and five of those hits were home runs. Skole was the first Jacket to hit a homer in the game, and it came in the third inning. It was only a solo homer but it gave the Jackets a commanding 4-0 lead. Skole finished the day 3-for-4. Junior centerfielder Jeff Rowland hit another home run for Tech in the bottom of the fifth to make it 5-0. It was his second homer of the season.

Tech was already in control of the game thanks to their offensive output and Campton’s work on the mound, but they still tacked on 10 runs in the sixth inning. Dietrich and Esch both hit two-run homers in the inning to fuel the big inning.

“Jacob [Esch] is a good player and is playing real well. I thought he made a couple of real nice plays defensively today. I’m happy for him; he had to sit and watch a lot last year and is getting a chance to play now and is taking advantage of it,” said Hall courtesy of ramblinwreck.com.

Senior second baseman Jason Garofalo added a home run later in the game and freshmen pitchers Luke Bard and Clay Dalton did not allow Xavier to score in the final two innings giving Tech a comfortable win. After losing the first two games of the series, Xavier handed Tech their first loss of the season 7-6.

Tech looked like they were in control of the game early when Plagman hit a two-run homer to right-center, but Xavier answered in the second inning with an RBI ground-rule double by Phil Bauer.

Garofalo extended his hot streak by singling to left field in the bottom of the third to score Dietrich from third base. Garofalo later scored a run in the fifth inning to give the Jackets a 4-2 lead.

Tech’s starting pitcher sophomore Jed Bradley allowed Xavier to get the bases loaded with no outs to start the sixth inning. Hall elected to pull Bradley and dive into his bullpen, but Xavier scored four runs on four hits off of four different Tech pitchers.

Leonida hit a homer for the Jackets in the seventh inning, cutting Xavier’s lead to one, but Tech was never able to re-gain the lead. Tech was scheduled to host Western Carolina on Tuesday, March 2, but the game was postponed due to bad weather. As of Wednesday, March 3, no make up game has been announced.

Tony Plagman swings during a game at Russ Chandler Stadium. Plagman hit .300 for the weekend and had a homer on Sunday.
Men’s Tennis beats Georgia State, Women’s falls against top-10 foes

By Alex Mitchell and Nishant Prasad

Assistant Sports Editor / Sports Editor

The Tech men’s tennis team hosted in-state rival Georgia State on Saturday, Feb. 27 and took down the Panthers 7-0. Meanwhile, the women’s tennis team traveled to the Midwest to play a pair of top-10 opponents; the No. 14 Jackets fell 4-3 against No. 7 Notre Dame and 6-1 at No. 2 Northwestern.

In men’s play, the Jackets had little trouble taking down the visiting Panthers.

Tech swept all three doubles matches including an 8-3 victory by the team of sophomore Kevin King and freshman Juan Spir.

In singles, King played from the number one position and won a rate 1-2 match as his opponent Calvin Kemp retired after only three games.

Junior Elior Pavin and Miguel Muguruza needed three sets each to defeat their opponents but both wins gave the Jackets a 4-0 lead. With only seven possible points, Tech’s lead meant that they had secured the victory over the Panthers.

Tech’s bottom three players still played well and won their matches. Junior Dean O’Brien won his match 6-4, 6-0, and freshmen Magin Ortiga and Spir defeated their opponents to give the Jackets a 7-0 sweep.

The women’s team first faced Notre Dame, looking to pick up their second straight win over the Fighting Irish. Tech upset then-No. 4 Notre Dame 4-3 at home on March 14, 2009.

Tech won the first-flight doubles match as sophomore Irina Falconi and junior Sasha Krupina edged Notre Dame’s Kristy Frilling and Kristen Rafael 8-7. The Irish won the other two doubles matches though, taking the point.

The first singles match to finish saw No. 1 Falconi cruise to a 6-0, 6-2 win over No. 23 Frilling to even the score. Tech senior Amanda McDowell and sophomore Hillary Davis dropped their matches in straight sets, though, and the Irish took a 3-1 lead.

Sophomore Viet Ha Ngo kept Tech in the match with a third-flight 6-4, 6-4 victory over Christine McGaffigan, but sophomore Lynn Blau’s loss on court five secured Notre Dame’s victory. Krempiu’s win over Shannon Matthews meant that Tech picked up wins in the top three singles flights but lost the match as a whole.

Against Northwestern, doubles play followed a similar pattern. Falconi and Krupina picked up an 8-6 victory over Elena Chernyakova and Samantha Murray, but the Wildcats won the other two matches to take the point.

The Jackets had less luck in singles play than they did against Notre Dame. Falconi was the only Tech player to win her match, defeating No. 12 Maria Monsova 6-4, 6-4 on court one. Krupina, Ngo, Blau and Kilborn each lost in straight sets, while McDowell was forced to retire midway through the second set.

The men’s team faces UNC-Wilmington at home on Sunday, March 7. The women’s team returns to action at home on Saturday, March 6 against North Texas.
Softball wins four at NFCA Leadoff Classic

By Alex Mitchell
Assistant Sports Editor

On Feb 26-28, No. 11 Tech softball traveled to Columbus, Ga. for the NFCA Leadoff Classic. Tech won four out of five games in the tournament, falling 2-0 against Nebraska but also defeating No. 18 Louisiana-Lafayette.

Against Central Florida on Friday, junior pitcher Kelsi Weseman also had a three-run home run in the bottom of the first inning batting from the third base. Her sixth of the season.

Kristine Priebe hit a sacrifice fly to put the Jackets on the scoreboard. Kuzma then bunted home a run, and freshman designated player Caitlin Jordan added an RBI single to pull the Jackets within two.

The two teams traded runs for the remainder of the game until the eight innings thanks to a two-run double by Weseman.

In the sixth inning, Yee hit a two-run homer that plated Weseman and then Yee got another RBI in the seventh to give Tech a commanding lead.

In their second game of the day, Tech took on Nebraska, and their offense did worse than they did against UCF.

The teams were involved in a pitchers dual for the first six innings. Freshman pitcher Hope Rush only allowed five hits through the first six innings while striking out four. Nebraska’s Robbin Mackin shut down the Jackets by only allowing three hits.

Tech started the game of slop with four errors through the first three innings of the game and junior Sullivan Lynch both of which were earned.

Tech scored their first runs of the game in the third inning when the Cornhuskers used two infield singles and a stolen base to score one run.

In the seventh inning, Yee hit a two-run homer that plated Kuzma and then Yee got another RBI in the seventh to give Tech a commanding lead.

In their last game of the Classic, Tech needed eight innings to beat Iowa 9-8.

Rush pitched well again and only gave up one run on six base hits. She went 2-4 from the plate including two RBI in route to a 10-5 win.

Iowa led 5-0.

On Sunday, Tech faced No. 18 Iowa and its offense struggled but also defeated the Hawkeyes 7-1.

In the sixth inning, Yee hit a two-run homer that plated Weseman and then Yee got another RBI in the seventh to give Tech a commanding lead.

In their last game of the Classic, Tech needed eight innings to beat Iowa 9-8.

Rush's only blemish came in the second inning when the Cornhuskers used two infield singles and a stolen base to score one run.

Tech scored their first runs of the game in the third inning when they loaded the bases with two outs. Yee hit a grounder to the ULL shortstop. Her throw went wide of second base for an error.

Rush pitched both games on Sunday and against Iowa she had six strikeouts and only two of the eight runs were earned.

Tech started the game off sleepy with four errors through the first three innings of the game and Iowa led 5-0.

The Jackets managed to get two runners into scoring position with no outs to start the fourth inning, and junior first baseman Kristine Priebe hit a sacrifice fly to put the Jackets on the scoreboard. Kuzma then bunted home a run, and freshman designated player Caitlin Jordan added an RBI single to pull the Jackets within two.

The two teams traded runs for the remainder of the game until the eight innings thanks to a two-run double by Weseman.

In the bottom half of the frame, Iowa got a quick single and Tech committed its sixth error of the game putting the Hawkeyes within one run, but they couldn’t get the tying run.

Yee’s performance earned her a third consecutive ACC Player of the Week award. She hit .545 with six homers and a 1.364 slugging percentage last week.

Men’s Swimming takes 5th at ACC Championships

The men’s swimming team finished fifth at the ACC Championships in Chapel Hill, N.C. last weekend from Feb. 24-27.

Senior Gal Nevo led the way for the Jackets, winning the 200-IM and the 400-IM while setting an ACC record in the 200-fly with a time of 1:43.43.

Sophomore Nigel Plummer and junior Sullivan Lynch both placed in the top five in the 50-free. Freshman Eric Chiaz took fifth in the 100-fly, and Tech’s teams in the 400-medley relay and the 400-free relay each finished in fifth place.

Tech will now begin preparing for the NCAA Championships in Columbus, Ohio on March 25-27.

Hockey wins two against Emory to close out season

Tech’s ice hockey team finished its season with a pair of wins over Emory on Feb. 26-27. Tech won 10-5 on Friday night and 8-2 on Saturday night to finish the year 10-16 overall.

Sophomore center Ben Garratt was the star on Friday, recording a hat trick as the Jackets notched a season-high 10 goals and picked up the victory.

Saturday’s game was Senior night, and lone senior Steven Putz scored a breakaway goal late as Tech cruised in the season finale. Junior winger Jeremy Spafard added two goals and an assist.

Wednesday, March 10, 2010 • 23
Men’s Basketball takes down BC, fades late at Clemson

By Kyle Conarro  Staff Writer

A week after losing to Maryland on a buzzer-beating three, the Jackets took the court at Alexander Memorial Coliseum this past Saturday, Feb. 27, to face Boston College. Tech shot 52 percent from the floor and went 11-for-12 from the free throw line on their way to a 73-68 win. Three days later, the Jackets headed up to South Carolina to face Clemson, this time losing 91-80.

The loss puts Tech at 7-8 in the ACC and 19-10 overall with one game left.

Against Boston College, the Jackets looked polished. A three-pointer by sophomore guard Iman Shumpert gave Tech a 3-0 lead to start the game, and they never looked back. Despite shooting 50 percent from field goal range, the Eagles were unable to mount a consistent enough attack to take the lead from the Jackets.

By the 9:24 mark, the Jackets had built a 10-point advantage, going up 24-14 on a jumper by senior forward Zachary Peacock. BC cut the lead to three on a three-pointer from forward Joe Trapani, but Peacock and Shumpert hit consecutive layups to give Tech a seven-point edge heading into the break.

Another Shumpert layup followed by a jumper by freshman forward Glen Rice, Jr. put the Jackets ahead by 11 to open the second. From there, Tech maintained their lead for the majority of the period... Eagles’ guard Reggie Jackson hit a three with 10 minutes to play to pull his team within 9, but a dunk by freshman forward Derrick Favors and a three-pointer from Shumpert quickly dashed the Boston College comeback, putting Tech up 59-45 with 8:28 remaining.

The Eagles came within single-digits three more times over the next eight minutes, but each time the Jackets responded to maintain their comfortable advantage.

Although BC hit three consecutive shots in the last 14 seconds of play, they were unable to top the Jackets in time, giving Tech the 73-68 win.

Shumpert was Tech's top scorer on the day, shooting 10-for-12 and totaling 24 points in the win over BC.

Sasha Goodlett puts up a layup over a defender against UNC at Alexander Memorial Coliseum.

By Alex Mitchell  Assistant Sports Editor

A split of its last two games of the season was enough to earn Tech's women's basketball team a first-round bye in the ACC Tournament. Tech took down North Carolina 64-57 on Friday, Feb. 26 on Senior Night but fell in the regular-season finale against N.C. State 54-46 on Sunday, Feb. 28.

The Jackets finished the regular season 19-9 overall, with an 8-6 mark against ACC opponents. They have earned the No. 4 seed in the conference overall, with an 8-6 mark against ACC opponents. According to head coach Paul Hewitt, “When he's good, he's really good.”

least four of those turnovers should’ve been shot attempts by him...[but] you’d rather have a guy who wants to get his teammates involved than a guy who is taking bad shots.”

Another positive sign was the Jackets’ quality effort from the free throw line. Three of the four players who got to the stripe hit 100 percent of their shots, and the team's 91.7 percent for the game was their best all season.

“It was a good win, and now we just got to get ready to play against Clemson,” Hewitt said after the game.

In the Clemson game, Tech's road woes continued. They stayed close in the first half, but the Tigers were able to pull away in the second, rallying behind the noisy crowd present for their final home game of the season.

The teams battled for the edge early in the first, swapping leads three times in just over five minutes of play. A jumper by Favors at the 1:16 mark gave Tech a five-point advantage, but they were unable to pull away.

Clemson stole the lead back just one minute later behind back-to-back buckets by brothers Devin and Trevor