SPORTS
Tradition Dominates Tech’s Athletic Program

Throughout the years, the words “Ramblin’ Reck of Georgia Tech” have painted visions of football powerhouse, basketball prominence, and baseball excellence. Under six football coaches, Tech has inscribed its name in record books, becoming part of national sports legend. Flashes of those days returned to Grant Field as the football team put together some impressive play. Dwayne Morrison has revived memories of the golden days under the dome of Alexander Memorial Coliseum when “Whack” Hyder was showing America that engineers could play basketball — its only a matter of physics.

Tech’s baseball also garnered some well-earned recognition as players added their names to NCAA honor rolls and attracted the attention of professional teams.

Regardless of the team or the era, it has always been the players themselves that have built Tech’s rich athletic heritage. These players are students that undergo the same academic turmoil as all other students, with the additional agony of the endless hours of practice and hard work spent striving for excellence. It is this excellence that has made Tech the proud institute she is both in the classroom and on the athletic field.
Doug Weaver: Sports — "Winning Is . . . Not All of It"
Georgia Tech has a strong athletic tradition built almost exclusively on football. But this tradition is not built entirely on winning. It also reflects the dedication, sportsmanship, and integrity of the Tech spirit that is present in all sports at Tech.

In the last few years, Georgia Tech has not enjoyed the tremendous success these traditions were built upon. Students and alumni were understandably disappointed over the Yellow Jackets' declining success, and at one time rumors were circulated concerning changes in the Athletic Association.

With these things in mind, Athletic Director Doug Weaver discussed the past, present, and future of intercollegiate athletics at Georgia Tech.

"I feel that overall we had an outstanding year in all sports. For example, wrestling had a good season and the swim team picked up some big wins at Tulane. The football team had a winning season while beating three SEC teams, and, of course, the basketball teams enjoyed tremendous success."

"Most important to us are the players. They are a very integral part of the student body. We feel it is essential to our program that they remain friends with other students and retain respect among their peers. We like to think of our athletes as students that also play football (for example). In other words, playing football is not the only reason they come to Tech. They also come to get a good education. It is no more difficult, or different, to find a person who wants to study engineering and play football than it is to find someone who wants to be an engineer and at the same time has an active interest in journalism.

"At the present, we are in the Metro Seven Conference. This is an asset to basketball and the minor sports. Minor is not a pleasant word with me in reference to a sport. I don't think that any sport is minor to the ones that are participating in it. For this reason I think of these as non-revenue or seasonal sports."

"Right now, football carries the entire financial burden. For this reason we will continue to review options to enhance our football program. It is good to be in a conference to give the athletes something to work toward. This applies to all sports. Being in the Metro has really helped the winter and spring sports in this respect."

"The financial situation here at Tech is not unlike that of other colleges. Even though we don't offer full scholarships for all non-revenue sports, all categories have potential for some scholarship help. However, there appears to be a national trend to start reducing the number of scholarships for some of the seasonal sports. If that happens, we will start getting some athletes that would have come here if we could have offered them more financial assistance."

"Things are changing. Fans are more involved now than before. We have to deal with inflation, the fact that intercollegiate sports are subject to more consumerism, and the increasingly competitive entertainment market in Atlanta."

"There are some things that indicate that we are making progress. In the near future we plan to build a new facility where the Naval Armory is now. Women's sports are becoming more popular, as evidenced by women's basketball becoming a varsity sport and the emergence of softball, volleyball, and tennis programs for women. At the same time we continue to attract quality athletes in our more traditional sports such as football and basketball."

"Individuals make up Tech. People that are students now will someday be alumni. It is the responsibility of the Athletic Association to see that Tech's sports program remains something that alumni can be proud of. Winning is part of that responsibility but not all of it. We must remain practical, realizing that fans and alumni have a stake in Tech, but that we also have an obligation to our athletes and coaches. As we continue to try to upgrade Tech's program, we want to keep all the great things of the past, but at the same time not be blinded by the past."

Doug Weaver, Athletic Director, talking to Garry English, Feb. 27, 1978.
Engineers Struggle Through Disappointing Season

Tech's campaign ended with a record of six wins and five losses. Not the most impressive record, but it represented substantial improvement over last season. Both offense and defense showed the dawning of excellence and most players will return to realize their potential. Linebacker Lucius Sanford ended his career at Tech by being chosen for two of the All-American teams in the country, while Eddie Lee Ivery set the single season rushing record as he amassed 900 yards in his eleven games. While many were disappointed that Tech did not go to a bowl game this year, the majority watched this year's model of the Ramblin' Wreck enter the garage while raising the Tech battle cry: "Wait 'til next year!"

The 1977 Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets opened practices on a note of cautious optimism on the part of Head Coach Pepper Rodgers. His wishbone offense was improved since the quarterback situation had been resolved with Gary Lanier taking over last year and the backfield having its usual quality talent. The defense was to be anchored by All-American linebacker candidate Lucius Sanford, supported by his mates Reggie Wilkes and Mackel Harris. The pass defense was the primary area of concern, as the only returning starter Don Bessilieu was hampered by an injury and the new members of the secondary had little field experience. Still and all, the team looked forward to the coming games and the chance to improve upon the 4-6-1 record of the previous season.
Yellow Jackets Fumble Away Opening Game: Again

The campaign opened on the road as Tech traveled to Columbia, South Carolina to meet the Gamecocks of the University of South Carolina. The Jackets had not won an opening game in six years, and South Carolina had been the opponent for four of those games. This year was no exception as the Gamecocks shut Tech out 17-0. Fumbles and interceptions provided visions of seasons past, as they appeared and plagued the offense and contributed heavily to the opening loss. Tech's comeback attempt ended when Drew Hill ran a perfect reverse and was thrown for a loss by an official who misread the play.

The game was a disappointment for the team, but a bright spot was the play of Donald Patterson, Lawrence Lowe and the other members of the secondary who showed their potential despite limited experience. So it was back to Atlanta, to prepare for the home opener against Miami of Florida.

Miami's Hurricanes came to Grant Field after a bitterly fought 10-7 loss to Ohio State. They brought a tenacious defense to oppose the Jackets, and it showed as they battled Tech throughout the game before bowing 10-6. Tech scored its first touchdown of the season on a Gary Lanier 14-yard run. The Wishbone showed that it was not yet up to its 1975 nationally-ranked form as Miami managed to gain more yardage rushing than Tech. Still, the scoreboard and the papers showed Tech's record even at 1-1, which was all that mattered.

Clemson's Tigers came to Atlanta to play the last game of a rivalry that stretched back to 1898. The Tigers were coming off a hard fought win over Georgia and looked to add the Jackets as another victim. They did so with a vengeance, completely dominating the game and winning 31-14.

Tech's offense could not mount sustained drives against the fired-up Clemson defense, so the Jacket defense constantly found themselves deep in their own territory as Clemson's offense took the field. The Jacket offense answered its many critics by going to the airways, passing 19 times, but unfortunately most were incomplete.

The game did have one standout in a new fullback, sophomore Rodney Lee, as he showed excellent potential for becoming a powerful inside threat with breakaway speed. When the game ended all that Tech fans could look to for solace was the fact that Tech had won 34 of the 47 games in the series.
Defense Prevails as Wishbone Floods Scoreboard

September ended and October began as the Falcons of Air Force Academy made their first trip to Grant Field to play the Jackets. The game went downhill for the Birds as soon as their band left the field. Tech's offense exploded and ran up 416 yards, defeating the inept Falcons 30-3. Eddie Lee Ivory was Tech's rushing leader, and Tech's only pass of the day was a Gary Lanier to John Steele touchdown bomb.

Lucius Sanford showed why other teams respect his ability as his crushing tackle of the Air Force quarterback put the Zoomie on the sideline to stay. Two successful goal line stands and outstanding pass protection demonstrated that the defense had come a long way in three short weeks.

The Jackets went to Knoxville and Neyland Stadium to play the Tennessee Volunteers, now coached by 1976 Coach of the Year, Johnny Majors. While not discussing it openly, everyone remembered how the Big Orange had humbled Tech 42-7 last year.

The weather was perfect for Tech's Wishbone; it rained the entire game. The team continued the fine play that characterized the Air Force game. Lawrence Lowe intercepted a Tennessee pass and returned it 42 yards to score the only defensive points of the year. Rodney Lee added a 72-yard scoring sprint. The Volunteers appeared listless all day as the Jackets would stop their offense and force them to give up the ball. By a score of 24-8, Tech defeated Tennessee for the first time since 1966.
The Yellow Jackets came home to Grant Field flying high for the Homecoming game against the Duke Blue Devils. "Bowl Fever," a strange malady missing from Tech for years, raged across the campus. After all, looking ahead, only Notre Dame posed any serious opposition, and everyone remembered last year's glorious triumph over the Irish.

As bowl scouts watched, the game see-sawed back and forth as first Duke and then Tech would take the lead. Tech went into the dressing room at halftime leading 10-9. The third quarter was Tech's bid to put the game away as they ran the score to 24-9, but Duke quarterback Mike Dunn wouldn't give up. He showed that Tech's secondary still needed work as he proceeded to selectively dismember the pass defense with precision passes. The game came down to 13 seconds, and a lofted Dunn pass that was caught in the corner of the end zone. The conversion brought Tech's bowl hopes and enviable Homecoming record crashing down in a 25-24 defeat.
Carter Watches Slumping Jackets Hit Bottom in Annapolis

The extent of the effect of the Homecoming loss was evident as the team traveled to South Bend, Indiana to play the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame. The first half appeared even, and Tech led at the half 7-6. The rout was on as the third quarter began; the Irish scored again, and again, and again, and each time Dan Devine would shake his fist at the Tech bench to rub salt in the wound. Only one play lightened the day’s gloom — a 78 yard kickoff runback by Eddie Lee Ivery for Tech’s final score of the day. The game mercifully ended. For Tech, it was painful to look up to see the scoreboard reading Notre Dame 69, Georgia Tech 14.

The team left early for their trip to Annapolis. They had been invited to visit the White House and meet President Carter before their game with his other alma mater, the Naval Academy. The Jackets and Carter then left for Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. Carter watched with Tech fans as Navy moved at will against the Tech defense, though they did have problems putting points on the board, when the Jackets “got tough” inside the thirty. Still, it was enough, as the Wishbone had a bad day and never caught up. The last Tech drive had Gary Hardie pilot the team from their own 20 to the Navy 7. His final pass went into the arms of a Navy defender as the clock went to zero. Navy won 20-16.
So, the season came down to THE game with the Bulldogs of the University of Georgia. Both teams had 5-5 records, and the game would determine who ended the year with a winning season and won bragging rights in the State of Georgia. It was the 72nd time the rivals had met to renew one of America’s greatest college football rivalries. Tech had fared badly in recent years — national humiliation in 1975 and a heartbreaking last-minute loss in 1976. This was the year that the tide would turn. The game was all Tech in the first half. Georgia was “found with the Yellow Jackets swarming ‘round,” as the defense constantly forced Georgia to give up the football, not to mention knocking their fourth and fifth-string quarterbacks out of the game. Gary Hardie moved the Wishbone for two touchdowns and a field goal by the end of the first half. Georgia refused to crack and spent the second half keeping Tech fans on their feet, reminding the Jacket faithful of the Duke fiasco, as the Bulldog defense blocked two Ted Peeples punts, one of which set up a touchdown. The Jacket defense then kept the Bulldogs from scoring further and preserved a sweet ending to the season — Georgia Tech 16, Georgia 7.
Expanded Schedule Allows J.V.'s to Showcase Talent

In recent years, Georgia Tech's junior varsity football program has consisted of the single Thanksgiving Day charity game between the Baby Jackets and the Georgia Bullpups. The varsity team has taken many of the incoming players for its own use since the NCAA changed the regulations concerning freshman eligibility. This year's J.V. program was expanded to provide more actual game experience for new players so that they could contribute more to the future fortunes of the Ramblin' Reck.

Coach Richard Smith took his team to the University of South Carolina for a contest with the USC Chicks, and welcomed Tennessee's Baby Volunteers, Auburn's War Eaglets and the Bullpups to Grant Field. The games showed that Tech fans have many new faces to watch for. Freshman Randy Newman, starting quarterback, showed himself adept at the Wishbone offense, and combined it with a passing threat that produced one touchdown against Georgia. Running back Bernard Stover scored two touchdowns against Auburn, and was leading man in the backfield. Defensive noseguard Ivey Stokes ran a blocked Bullpup punt in for a touchdown, and Jimmy Hughes was most effective at grabbing enemy passes.

The offense gained 1207 total yards, 241 by passing; possibly indicating upcoming offensive changes. The team finished with a 2-2 record, but proved that they will serve as effective replacement parts for those Ramblin' Recks who graduated this year.
Holiday Game Benefits Hospital

Every Thanksgiving Day, the freshman football squad of Georgia Tech and its counterpart at Georgia visit the patients at the Scottish Rite Hospital for Crippled Children. The visit never fails to provide extra incentive for the game played that afternoon. A crowd of almost 12,000 attended the contest this year and watched as the Bullpups defeated the Baby Jackets 20-12. Tech didn’t get untracked until the second half of the game and couldn’t overcome the lead Georgia had posted. As always, there were no real winners or losers, except the children at the hospital.
Cheerleaders Ignite Crowd Spirit

Being a Georgia Tech cheerleader gives one the pleasure and responsibility of promoting Tech and its athletic program. For the most part this means keeping the student section “Fired-up” at football games during the fall and basketball games through the winter. This task takes the cheerleaders on fun-filled road trips to such places as Pat O’Brien’s in New Orleans and the White House in Washington, D.C. Occasionally, they are also invited to represent Ma Tech in different ways, such as traveling to Plains, Georgia to help Billy Carter with a promotion.

Each spring quarter Tech holds open tryouts for a new cheerleading squad. After several weeks of training and practice a new group of fifteen is selected by judges from the University Cheerleader’s Association. These fifteen people are divided into four regular couples, two alternate couples and a “mike man” elected by the squad. During the last week of August, the new cheerleaders attend a U.C.A. camp at East Tennessee State where they receive additional instruction and training.

1. Bill Hertzing
2. Cheryl Hull
3. Kevin Renshaw
4. Carol Chandler
5. Richard Smith
6. Robin Farrow
7. Tina Dobbs
8. Charlie Smith
9. Chellie Murray
10. Steve Nease
11. Rick Toole
12. Rusty Mills
13. Liz McQuillin
The 1977-78 edition of the basketball Yellow Jackets had to face a tough Metro Conference schedule with only two returning starters from last year's team. Though the players lacked experience working together as a team, they were a very talented group of individuals. For example, Sammy Drummer was the National Junior College Player of the Year. Tico Brown, 6-5 guard and last year's leading scorer was returning.

The season started off on a high note as the Jackets routed arch rival Georgia, 75-58 in the opening contest. Playing in his first game as a Yellow Jacket, Sammy Drummer lead all scorers. The next few opponents simply were not in Tech's class. Teams such as Troy State, Georgia State and DePauw were easy prey as the Jackets racked up five more victories. It was during these early games that Tech worked out many of the bugs in its offense and defense. Improvement was needed before the Jackets entered the Metro Conference portion of their schedule.

It was over Christmas break when Tech suffered its first loss of the season as the Jackets dropped three games by a total of five points. Two of these losses occurred in the finals of the two tournaments the Yellow Jackets attended.
Jackets Knock Off Cincinnati in Metro Opener

Tech bid for national recognition in the Dayton and Maryland Invitational Tournaments. The Jackets made it to the finals at Dayton before bowing to the hosts 65-63. The Maryland Invitational provided a thrilling win over nationally-ranked St. John’s and a close defeat by Maryland: 65-63.

Morrison’s men came home to the Coliseum for their game with Cincinnati’s Bearcats. The Jackets continued their habit of upsetting nationally ranked teams as the ‘Cats succumbed 59-56.

The possibility of Top Twenty honors dangled before Tech as they left on a four-game road trip. These hopes weren’t realized as first Georgia avenged its opening-game loss 68-64 and then Louisville won 90-84.

The crowds at Alexander Coliseum, sparse in recent years but now much more plentiful, provided the excitement as Auburn came to town. Fan opinions of the officiating caused a hail of debris and a technical foul against Tech. The final score was 77-72 Auburn. Things weren’t much brighter on Cincinnati’s home court as the Bearcats prevailed 75-67.

Prospects seemed dim for Tech’s Metro Seven record as Tech had to struggle to overcome a mediocre Tulane team. But Tech hadn’t finished. Probably Tech’s best played game of the season came against the nationally-ranked Louisville Cardinals. The Jackets shot a school record 66% from the floor and upset the “Doctors of Dunk” with a 69-59 victory.
The season closed on a sour note as Memphis State and Florida State administered three close defeats. The year's surprise was sprung when UPI released their Coaches' Poll and Tech found itself ranked 18th in the nation. Arguments filled the air about why and who had rated Tech 4th and gave them National Ranking. Still, it was a bit of good news for Tech fans as Tech went to the Metro Seven tournament.

The Jackets' participation in tournament action opened with the team squaring off against Cincinnati. The Jackets played a slow, almost torpid game and the frustrated Bearcats lost 39-38. The win advanced the Jackets to the semifinals against Florida State. The Seminoles ended Tech's dreams of NCAA tournament play as they held off the Jackets 71-69. Tech fans will remember what might have been had the referee seen that Bill Allgood and Lenny Horton were on the same team before he disallowed Allgood's last basket and called a foul on him.
Tech Breezes Through First Half of Season