Athletics in a State of Resurgence

It was a year of revival for Tech sports, a year that sent the message, "Tech isn't going to be kicked around anymore," to the rest of the sports world. Football had always been the favorite sport of Tech fans, and Coach Bill Curry's 1982 squad gave the people what they wanted — a fresh brand of the game played at a feverish level of intensity. They may have had their lapses. But the spark for the fire was there. The Yellow Jackets were on the road back to respectability.

One quarter later, however, there were five new kids on the block competing for a place in Tech fans' hearts. Bobby Cremins' dynamic coaching style and his young players' enthusiasm made watching our basketball team a genuine thrill. People flocked to the coliseum to cheer a young team on to victory in twelve of thirteen home games. And it was no coincidence that our first ACC Tournament victory came in the Omni in front of a partial Atlanta crowd. Basketball at Georgia Tech had come of age.

In the meantime, Jim Morris had been turning baseball into a "brand new ballgame." The Jackets had their first winning season in a long time, and students took advantage of various promotions devised to draw crowds.

The Athletic Association decided to direct some of their efforts toward minor sports, and hired a new tennis coach and a full-time golf coach. Women's sports also made advances, as a new volleyball coach was hired and a women's swim team was formed for the first time.

Intramural competition continued at its usual intense level, featuring everything from walleyball to water polo. New rule changes instituted by a new intramural director promised to decrease injuries.

It was a brand new look for Tech athletics; an optimistic outlook that promised to bring truth to the Georgia Tech Legend.

TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT: Tech ski team member displays award winning form. Player concentrates.
BOTTOM, LEFT TO RIGHT: Gigi Magoulis whacks one. Trackman hurls discus. Tech rugger goes one on one with UGA man.
Jackets Jump Back on the Track to Football Prominence

A winning season. The goal of every college football team which is rebuilding a program which has hit an all time low. The main goal of Bill Curry for his 1982 version of the Ramblin’ Reck. A goal which was realized.

In his first two years as head coach of the Georgia Tech football team, Curry accumulated a 2-19-1 record. Every Tech game was a highlight film — for the other team. This was turned around as Tech beat every team it was supposed to without ever suffering through a losing streak. A victory over bowl-bound Tennessee was the pleasant surprise of the season as the Jackets finished the year at 6-5.

Sophomore tailback Robert Layette provided many of the highlight film clips. Layette led the ACC in rushing with 1208 yards, 203 of which came in the final game against Georgia. (Herschel Walker, the Heisman trophy winner, only gained 156 yards in the same game.) Jim Bob Taylor, the senior quarterback who transferred from Southern Methodist University, challenged many of the Tech quarterbacking records as he led the offense.

On defense, the linebackers once again did their usual good job of stopping the opposition. Names such as Duane Wood, Robert Jaracz, and Rob Horton will long be remembered by loyal Tech fans.

Six and five. It isn’t a great record, but it does show that the Engineers are finally back on track. As Tech enters its first year of ACC competition, one can only wonder if someday Tech will be the team to beat instead of North Carolina or Clemson.
Memphis State Locked Up; Curry Locked Out

It may not have been the rebirth of the "Georgia Tech Legend," but 1982 did mark the beginning of a return to respectability for the Yellow Jackets. After three games they had a 2-1 record and already more wins than in either of Bill Curry's first two seasons as head coach.

In the second game of the season, Tech won in grand style, trouncing The Citadel at Grant Field 36-7. Robert Lavette gained 148 yards, and kicker Ron Rice broke two school records. It was a great pick-me-up after being stomped by Alabama in the season opener. But things almost took a turn for the worse the next week against Memphis State.

Coach Curry got a taste of things to come when he was locked out of his Memphis hotel room. The lock was so hopelessly jammed not even the house key would open it. So the occupants of the adjoining room were awakened and watched in amazement as security personnel chopped down the connecting door between the two rooms with a fire axe so Curry could get his belongings. It was a disastrous start to what almost became a disastrous day, as Tech won and nearly threw away an easy victory over Memphis State, 24-20.

Tech had a 24-7 lead at the half, but, as Curry put it, "Our fellas felt like they had it made in the middle of the second quarter, so they congratulated themselves and said they were going to have some fun. They almost ended up getting their rear ends beat."

"My stomach," he added, "is just about to explode."

What saved the game for the Jackets was a Ted Thurson interception that came with just 24 seconds remaining.

There were bright spots — Lavette's second straight 148-yard game comes to mind — but the victory should have come easier. Memphis State went on to complete one of the longest losing streaks in college football. Tech players were heard to mutter after the game, "We'll take it, we'll take it," when reminded it was a game they shouldn't have won. But Curry — churning stomach notwithstanding, and now with a Yellow Jacket team with its best opening record since 1979 — said, "I'm happy as can be."
Midseason Upsets Stifle the Critics

If the 1982 football season was like a roller coaster ride, two of the peaks would have to have been the Tulane and Tennessee games.

The win over Tulane under the Superdome in New Orleans came on the heels of a humiliating 41-0 loss to North Carolina. And whether it was a matter of solid play by the Yellow Jackets or sloppy play by the Green Wave — Tulane coach Vince Gibson said, simply, after the game, “We stunk.” — it was a needed ego boost for Tech, boosting the team record to 3-2. Quarterback Jim Bob Taylor threw his first touchdown pass of the season to Mike Harrington for six points; tailback Robert Layette, who ran for 145 yards, scored another six points, and the final seven came from an extra point and two field goals by Ron Rice. On defense, cornerback Ted Thurson intercepted his fourth pass of the season, putting him just two short of the school record held jointly by Jeff Ford and Randy Rhino.

Two weeks later the Yellow Jackets were in much the same situation. Coming off another embarrassing loss — this one 24-0 to Auburn — they surprised everybody and whipped a cocky Tennessee team, 31-21. The Volunteers had just beaten Alabama, at that time number two in the nation, and were totally unprepared for what hit them at Grant Field that Saturday.

Said Tennessee coach Johnny Majors to an Atlanta reporter, “The best way to describe it, although not original, is that Georgia Tech gave us an old-fashioned tail-whipping.”

The Jackets’ psyched-up performance may have had something to do with another “tail-whipping” — one that Coach Curry had been administering all week to his team in the form of the toughest work-outs he had put them through since he began coaching.

“We pushed them and we pressured them,” Curry said after the game. “And the team could do either of two things. It could have folded, or it could be the team that it has the potential to become.

“I knew on Monday (before the game) we would be ready. I have never been prouder.”

With Layette carrying for 139 yards and three touchdowns, and Taylor completing 12 of 19 passes for 202 yards, Tech kept Tennessee’s defense totally off balance. The win left Tech with a 4-3 record and a winning season in sight.

But all these ups and downs? Little wonder it prompted a sports writer for the Technique to preface his article with, “Will the real Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets please stand up?”

RIGHT: Sammy Brown makes an attempt for an interception, but the ball finds a Tulane receiver’s grasp. FAR RIGHT, TOP TO BOTTOM: Jack Westbrook broke the Tennessee game open with a 72-yard punt return that gave the Yellow Jackets a 21-7 lead. BELOW, LEFT: Robert Jaracz chases down a Tennessee back. BELOW, RIGHT: Tulane fullback Kelvin Robinson is stopped cold by defensive back Mike Travis and linebacker Rob Horton.
Jackets Rebound in ACC With Back-to-Back Victories

Emotional letdown. Overconfidence. These were the apparent symptoms of the Yellow Jackets in a disappointing 38-21 loss to Duke. The Homecoming loss not only made achieving a winning record harder, but cost the Jackets a possible post-season bowl bid.

Tech was never in the game, as Duke ran well and threw circles around Tech's secondary en route to a 21-0 halftime lead. The scouts from the Peach and Independence bowls both left at halftime. The second half was a little better, as the Recks put 21 points on the board. But it wasn't enough to stop the Blue Devils who scored another 17 points.

Following the Duke debacle, Coach Curry put many of the starting positions on the line during practice. This strategy had worked before, and it worked again on the hapless Wahoos of Virginia. The lead see-sawed throughout the game, but Tech's offense was able to answer all of Virginia's scores with ease. Led by Robert Lavette's four touchdowns, Tech rolled to a fairly easy 38-25 win.

The victory was a big one for Tech, who now needed to win only one more game to have a winning season. The Engineers got their victory at Wake Forest the next weekend. The Recking Crew totally destroyed the sleeping Deacons. Despite giving up over 500 yards to Wake Forest in the game, Tech only allowed the Demons to see the end zone once and won its sixth game of the season in style by rolling up 495 yards in total offense in the 45-7 victory.

The heroes of the game were fullback Eddie Fortier and tailback Robert Lavette. Fortier scored the first two touchdowns of his college career while racking up 104 yards rushing. Lavette had 139 yards, which gave him 1005 for the season to become Tech's first 1000 yard gainer since Eddie Lee Ivery.

For the entire team, the victory was especially sweet since it fulfilled their goal of a winning season. It also gave them momentum and confidence to take into the final game of the season against arch-rival and top-ranked Georgia.

TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT: Pat Swilling and Glenn Spencer put the stops on a Wake Forest back. Mike Harrington joins Buzz Bee in celebrating a touchdown against Duke. Eddie Fortier ploughs through the Deacon Demon line on his way to one of his two TDs. BOTTOM, LEFT TO RIGHT: Jeff Keisler beats Virginia defenders for the reception. Robert Lavette breaks the goal line plane for the score against Duke.
Maintaining an optimistic outlook, the Yellow Jackets entered the 1982 season determined to rise above last year's losing streak. Facing Alabama in the season opener, Coach Bill Curry and the Jackets wanted to prove that last year's victory was not a fluke. However, Alabama Coach Bear Bryant, who probably had nightmares about that game for the past year, prepared the Crimson Tide to roll over Tech in one clean sweep. A score of 45-7 was revenge enough for the desimated Yellow Jackets. The disastrous clash with 'Bama, however, did not lower the Jackets' sights of a winning season. A one-and-nine season just couldn't happen again.

Spirits were high, and it looked like smooth sailing for Tech as the team racked up victories over Citadel and Memphis State, but the winning streak didn't last. Tech journeyed to Chapel Hill to meet the University of North Carolina, and the Jackets were greeted with an official Tarheel whipping. Tech was nailed to the field 41-0, their worst loss since the 1977 heartache from Notre Dame. Curry, along with the other coaches, managers and players, decided that it was time to turn the season around.

The Jackets were up on their feet again following a victory at Tulane, but the Auburn War Eagles were waiting for their shot at Tech. A 24-0 score, the second shutout in three weeks, and fading optimism returned home to Atlanta with the Yellow Jackets. Tech's defense had been strong throughout the game, but the lack of an effective offensive strategy hindered the team. Auburn was limited to four first downs in the first half by Tech's defense. However, Robert Lavette was held to less than a hundred yards rushing, and the War Eagles claimed a victory.

Following the Auburn massacre, the ups and downs continued. The Jackets surprised the University of Tennessee with an awesome win over the Volunteers, then disappointed themselves with a Homecoming loss to Duke.

While Tech polished off two more wins over the University of Virginia and Wake Forest, the University of Georgia was busy developing devious plans for a repeat of last year's disastrous clash. In preparation, Dooley's Dawgs placed an Auburn squeaker under their hats to continue their undefeated season. The stage was set for Tech to play against the team that had the starring role of the number one ranking in the nation. It would be an impossible feat for Tech to knock these guys off the top, but that impossible dream hadn't been abandoned yet. To the players, Curry raised speculation of the return of the wishbone. That Saturday afternoon at Sanford Stadium, Hershel Walker and those Hairy Dawgs hunkered down on Tech, leaving the scoreboard with the final numbers 38 and 18. The Jackets dominated the day's play in every statistic except one: the score. Twice Tech pushed themselves within the twenty yard line but failed to score. The game yielded one particular boastable statistic for Georgia Tech: UGA's Heisman Trophy-winning Hershel Walker rushed for 162 yards, but Tech's Robert Lavette surged 203 yards.

The fluctuating season may have dampened their confidence somewhat, but Curry's Jackets were not forced to relive the continuous streak of losses experienced only a year ago. Upon finishing the 1982 season, Tech could rest assured that it didn't happen again.

TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT: Ted Roof prepares to punish Herschel Walker for attempting to cross the end-zone plane. Mike Niebanck gets some help from a swarming defense to stop an Auburn runner. Cleve Pounds picks his path carefully to avoid pursuing North Carolina Tar Heels. BOTTOM, LEFT: Georgia linemen use Eddie Fortier to demonstrate the tactics that got them into the Sugar Bowl.
Newfound Team Optimism is Sparked by Standouts

Under the leadership of head coach Bill Curry, the 1982 Yellow Jacket squad met its preseason goal of completing a winning season. Although the entire Jacket team was responsible for the successful season, several Techmen led in individual ACC statistical categories.

One such outstanding performer was sophomore tailback Robert Layette. Layette became Tech’s first all-ACC selection as he raced for 1,208 yards rushing and scored nineteen touchdowns, both league highs. He also became just the second player in Tech’s history to rush for more than 1,000 yards in a single season, and his total score of 114 points was the second highest in the nation. Layette also topped the ACC in all-purpose running with an average of 142.7 yards per game.

Quarterback Jim Bob Taylor also proved to be an asset for the team. A transfer from Southern Methodist University, Taylor saw little action in 1981. This year, however, he completed 135 of 232 passes for a 58.2 percent completion rate, third-best ever for Tech. Tech’s top professional football prospect could very well be tackle David Lutz. Lutz sparked the offensive line, which helped the Jackets average over 159 yards per game, more than 50 yards a game higher than last season’s total.

Curry may have been reluctant to give place-kicker Ron Rice the responsibilities of the entire kicking game, but his fears were relinquished by Rice’s impressive performances. Against The Citadel, Rice booted five field goals to set a new school record. His last field goal of that game, a 55-yarder, erased a nine-year-old school record. His twelve field goals during the year tied a school single-season mark. He also led the ACC in punting, ending the season with a 42.6 yard average.

Tech’s leading tackler was free safety Sammy Brown. Against the University of North Carolina, Brown collected nine unassisted tackles and assisted on eleven more, and for that game was named the ABC-TV “Chevrolet Outstanding Georgia Tech Performer.” Brown completed the year with 113 total tackles, many of which were individual efforts.

Freshman Cleve Pounds stepped in for Robert Lavette on several occasions. Between the two of them, they accounted for 130 yards rushing per game. Pounds also topped the league in kickoff returns with a 23.4 yard per carry average.

Other Yellow Jacket standouts included Bobby Hodge, Jack Westbrook and Rob Horton. Hodge, a defensive end, had a significant team high with ten tackles for losses. With a 12.1 yard average, Westbrook was ACC leader in punt returns, and linebacker Horton led the Tech squad with 100 tackles.
Undeated Baby Jackets Buzz Georgia

Playing Junior Varsity Football at Georgia Tech is a unique experience. Winter workouts, spring workouts, summer workouts plus two-a-day practices, and a fall season that fluctuates between running scout team, imitating the varsity's next opponent, playing a four game season, taking classes, on top of paying for school, composed a hectic year for Tech's walk-ons.

Playing a schedule that included such opponents as Fort Benning, Fort Bragg, and Memphis State served only to prepare the Baby Jackets for one game: The annual clash against the University of Georgia to benefit the Scottish Rite Hospital for Crippled Children. Each year during Thanksgiving weekend, Georgia Tech and Georgia put their J.V. squads against each other on Grant Field, but it is much more than just a game. Both teams visit the children in the hospital prior to the game. As varsity coach Bill Curry said, "The trip to the hospital is an emotional uplifting for everyone. There is more to life than just football, and this fact is so visibly illustrated when we play this game."

Coached by Rick Smith, the jayvees carried a 3 wins-0 losses record into the Georgia game. Powered by the leadership of quarterback Andy Thomas, Tech defeated UGA in a 17-16 last second thriller. Off-setting penalties on the final play of the game nullified a Georgia field goal that would have given the Bullpups the victory.

Smith's non-scholarship walk-ons performed with great strength and character against a mostly scholarship, varsity-feeder UGA jayvee team. As defensive coordinator Scott Anderson put it, "These guys are out there for no reason other than love of the game. They beat a couple of teams that were physically more talented than they were just because they had the guts and determination needed to win."

TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT: A Tech runner dodges a tackler. Quarterback Andy Thomas hands off against Memphis State. The Baby Jacket offense is prepared and ready to strike. BOTTOM, LEFT: A Jacket back plows his way through a stubborn Georgia defense.
New rules, new faces, and new victories highlighted Bobby Cremins' second year as head coach of the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets.

The additions to the rules of the Atlantic Coast Basketball Conference included a thirty-second clock requiring teams to put the basketball on the rim within thirty seconds of gaining possession, and awarding three points instead of two for shots taken outside a circle which was 19 feet from the backboard. These additional rules moved much of the scoring action to the outside, away from the big men, and forced teams to speed up their offense, bringing about a 30 percent increase in average game scores over the 1981-82 season.

Taking advantage of the new rules were five freshman recruits, four of whom were starters most of the year. Point guard Mark Price proved to be the main catalyst for the Engineers, as he was at the top of the Atlantic Coast Conference in scoring right alongside North Carolina All-American Michael Jordan. Price took advantage of the short three-point stripe as he led the nation in three-point goals scored. The 6'0" sharpshooter from Enid, Oklahoma, averaged 20.4 points per game enroute to ACC Rookie-of-the-Year honors.

Along with Price, 6'10" Tim Harvey, 6'9" John Salley, and 6'5" Danny Pearson rounded out the freshmen on the starting five. With seniors George Thomas and Maurice Bradford, and junior Anthony Byrd leading the way, the Ramblin' Recks finished with a 13-15 record, including Tech's first ACC tournament win ever against Lefty Driesell's Maryland Terrapins.
Four Freshman Starters Acquire Invaluable Experience

Wofford College became the first of eight straight Coliseum victories for the Jackets as they took the season's opening round. Youthful enthusiasm and raw talent brought early season successes and enabled the team to establish a 12-1 home court record. The third game of the season pitted this enthusiasm against Georgia. Play action in the Omni was fiercely competitive, but the ultimate SEC Champions broke away during the second half for an easy victory.

Gaining poise as the season progressed, the mostly freshman squad added Clemson to their list of Coliseum victories and thus claimed the season's first conference victory.

Virginia's awesome Cavaliers and Ralph Sampson visited Tech in the Omni, and the young team's performance during the first half gave Tech fans a hint of a real future in the world of top competition basketball. They exercised good control and led by two at the half. Ultimately, Virginia's experience took over, and the game was lost by a fourteen point margin. But Tech gained respect by proving they could play with highly ranked teams.

The Recks proved they were for real again a week later battling North Carolina in Greensboro. The defending National Champions had their hands full with the young Tech squad. Tech lost the game by only seven points, but more importantly they didn't fold at any time against the pressure of a very talented and experienced team.

Duke and Wake Forest came to the Dome and became Tech's first back to back ACC victories. Each fell prey to the strong outside shooting of Price, and the inside power of Salley and Harvey. Tech was maturing as a team and was becoming recognized as a force to be reckoned with.

South Carolina was perhaps Cremins' biggest game from a personal standpoint. A pregame banquet paid tribute to the Gamecock's former assistant Coach. Cremins admitted, "I've never been this nervous before a game." The accolades were somewhat tarnished by a loss. Tech played without the service of seniors Bradford and Thomas, as Cremins suspended each for a curfew violation. The starting crew was forced to play with fewer substitutions, and the Gamecocks literally wore them out with a running game and cruised to an eight point victory.

Following a victory over Appalachian State, Cremins' team faced Lefty's Terps in the coliseum. Maryland gave Tech its only road win in the ACC. They had also been dominated by Tech since Cremins began coaching here. For Tech's fans, the Maryland game became one of the biggest basketball rivalries. Tech took it right to the Turtles and avenged an earlier 72-65 loss by thrashing Maryland 70-60. It was the third victory over Driesell in the last four encounters and helped build up the first round ACC tournament game to be played later in the Omni.

TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT: John Salley stuffs over Ralph Sampson. Maurice Bradford goes for a layup. BOTTOM, LEFT TO RIGHT: John Salley has his leg examined. Mark Price, ACC rookie of the year, shoots in his last game as a freshman at Georgia Tech.
Jackets Capture First ACC Tournament Victory

Tech finished the regular season with a thrashing at the hands of Duke and a tough loss to North Carolina in the Omni. They recorded a 12-14 overall record and a 4-10 conference record, good enough for a sixth place finish in the standings ahead of Duke and Clemson. For his efforts, Cremins was named by the ACC writers as ACC Coach-of-the-Year.

Tech was pitted against the third place finisher in the conference, none other than Maryland. Before the tournament started, there was a feeling in the air that an upset could be in the making. Even with the even distribution of tickets, Tech would be playing on home turf, and the crowd was definitely biased towards the Jackets.

The game was close all the way. Neither team was able to pull away. Maryland’s game plan was to keep a man in Price’s face the entire game. Tech’s plan was to try to control Adrian Branch and stop the power of Ben Coleman inside.

Both strategies worked. Price was held to just 15 points. Coleman and Branch were both contained, but reserves for Maryland and Tech’s inside combination of Harvey and Salley kept the game close. With just seconds left, the score was tied and Maryland had an inbounds pass. The ball was thrown to Coleman who put up a shot at the buzzer. The ball rolled around the rim and fell out. The game went into overtime.

Tech took complete control in the overtime. After getting the ball, Cremins had the team go into a four-corners offense. Maryland was forced to foul, and Bradford and Salley converted enough free throws to keep the game out of Maryland’s reach. Price added the only field goal of the overtime for Tech to ice the game.

Virginia destroyed Tech in the second round, but for the Jackets, their goals of getting out of the cellar and winning a tournament game were complete. They showed that despite their youth, with solid coaching and hard work, this team could be winners.

TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT: Tech men try to avoid a foul. John Salley slams against Maryland. Buzz Bee plays with a terrapin. BOTTOM, LEFT TO RIGHT: Mark Price and George Thomas surround a terrapin. George Thomas drives down the court.
ACC Honors Cremins and Price

It was a great day for Georgia Tech basketball, a day that proved that the Yellow Jackets were on their way to becoming a powerhouse in the Athletic Coast Conference. In just his second year as head coach of Tech, Bobby Cremins was named ACC Coach of the Year. In addition, Mark Price, Tech’s freshman guard, was named ACC Rookie of the Year.

Cremins earned the respect of the press by steering Tech to a 13-15 season, its best in four years. But more impressively, he led the young squad to Georgia Tech’s first ever ACC Tournament win.

Cremins drew 61 of 137 votes cast by ACC sports writers. He won by a wide margin over UNC’s Dean Smith, Maryland’s Lefty Driesell, and N.C. State’s Jim Valvano.

Mark Price was a runaway victor over Duke’s Johnny Dawkins, receiving 83 ballots. To earn that honor, Price boasted a 20.3-point average and enjoyed the finest season ever for a Tech freshman. He scored 568 points during his rookie season. Price, the top high school basketball player from the state of Oklahoma, averaged over 31 points during his senior year, and set a school record with 50 points in one game. He tied the state prep tournament record with 42 points in the playoff semifinals.
While the Georgia Tech Lady Jacket basketball team didn’t show much improvement record-wise from last year, the team did manage to accomplish feats.

For the second consecutive year, the team did not finish in the cellar of the Atlantic Coast Conference. Considering that three of the conference’s eight teams were nationally ranked, this says a lot for the competitive spirit of the young squad.

Leading the way was the only senior starter on the squad. LeeAnn Woodhull capped off a sterling career by breaking the all time scoring mark in a career by a Lady Jacket. Woodhull averaged in double figures throughout her career. The 6’1” center from Tucker, Georgia also broke the record for most points scored in the first round of the ACC tournament. Woodhull scored 32 points in a losing effort. Oddly enough, the former holder of the record is Bernadette McGlade, the Lady Jackets’ head coach.

It was also a good year for three other returning players. Junior Kate Brandt surpassed the 1000 point mark as she averaged in double figures. Sophomore Cindy Cochran showed that the sophomore jinx doesn’t always exist. Cochran was at the top of the rebounding stats along with Woodhull and also averaged in double figures on the offensive end. Anita Malone, Tech’s quick point guard, also enjoyed a successful year. Malone made the all-tournament team in the Northern Lights Tournament in which the team played in Alaska and also set two tournament records at the Northern Lights.

TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT: LeeAnn Woodhull eyes the hoop. Jennifer Leachman outreaches a Wahoo for the rebound. BELOW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Anita Malone drives down court. Cindy Cochran shoots for two points.
Three Freshmen Add Much Needed Depth to Squad

Tech added three freshmen to the squad. Jennifer Leachman proved to be the fastest learner, as the 6'1" forward-center earned a spot on the starting lineup by the end of the season. Despite being injured early in the season and seeing only limited action during the first half of the schedule, Leachman came on strong and led the team in shooting percentage. Another center, 6'4" Kirsten Weinert also showed quite a bit of promise. Weinert saw limited playing time throughout the season, but did improve as the schedule progressed.

Rounding out the newcomers was guard Kim Crawford. Crawford who came to Tech from the same West Virginia town as Leachman, was the main substitute for Malone at the point, but due to the success the team had when Malone was on the floor, Crawford also saw limited action. All three additions were highly rated players coming out of high school and should provide vital contributions during their careers.

While the Lady Engineers finished with a less than desirable 10-17 record, they did show some promise. The team won five of their last six games in a strong season finish against some highly touted teams. With only one starter lost to graduation, a strong recruiting year expected, and the desire to win, the Tech team will show soon enough that they are a team to be respected in the tough Atlantic Coast Conference.
Team Tallies Its First Winning Season in Five Years

The 1982 Georgia Tech baseball squad wrote its name in the school’s all-time record book as one of the winningest groups of Jackets ever, despite falling one game short of its pre-season goal of thirty wins. Tech’s season tally of twenty-nine wins and twenty losses marked the school’s first winning season in five years and gave the Jackets their second-highest number of wins ever in a single season. In conference play, the Jackets posted a 6-8 record and finished fifth in the ACC Post-Season Tournament in April.

With new head coach Jim Morris in command, the Jackets were not shut out all season. They rolled to school recors for most hits, most runs batted in, most runs scored, most stolen bases, and most double plays.

In addition, several individual records were broken. All-ACC performers Rick Lockwood and Gary Newsom led Tech’s assault on the record books as the former high school teammates broke a total of five records.

Lockwood set one new mark with his 66 base hits and also smashed the school RB1 record with 55 for the year. He led the team with a .367 batting average, and set a school record with bases on balls. Newsom collected 185 at bats and scored 49 runs to set school marks.

Among pitching regulars, lefties Stu Rogers and Richard O’Brien, and righthanders John Jett and Alan Walker, all posted five wins on the year. Rogers’ 4.50 earned run average was the lowest among starters, while Jett’s 84 innings pitched and Walker’s 25 appearances were also team highs.

The Jackets played a shortened fall schedule in an effort started by Morris last year to keep the team in shape year-round. Although the games didn’t count toward the regular season record, Tech recorded an impressive 24 wins and 4 losses against mostly in-state schools.

LEFT: Brad Stuart hurlis his fastball at an Auburn batter. BELOW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Rick Lockwood pulls one into the right field bleachers. Home runs were common at the alumni game as Tech beat the old timers 20-8. EXTREME BOTTOM: The throw to third is on time.
Baseball at Georgia Tech Is A “Brand New Ballgame”

SELECTED FANS. The Athletic Association also launched a publicity campaign in an attempt to make baseball more of a spectator sport. Attendance jumped considerably from the previous year, with a season high of 2000 attending the University of Georgia game. To accommodate larger crowds, the seating capacity was increased from 300 to 1300. Other accomplishments include offering increased scholarships for players and installing field lights. A new stadium is on the agenda for the next two or three years.

Making baseball a revenue-producing sport is among Morris’ goals for the future. He also wants to break the record of thirty-one wins for a single season and go on to win the ACC championship. From gracious alumni, Morris collected $101,000 in only eight weeks to pay for lights on Rose Bowl Field. With successes like this and a competitive recruiting program, Tech promises to become a real threat in the ACC.

TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT: John Jett winds up to release a 90 mph fastball. The play wasn’t even close as the Tech player is called safe at home plate. BOTTOM, LEFT TO RIGHT: Larry Maurer hits a line drive as a teammate leads off third base. Head coach Jim Morris hopes to make baseball at Tech a revenue producing sport. Morris believes that, at Tech, baseball “is a brand new ballgame.”
Driven by the dream of being the best, the Georgia Tech cheerleaders have soared from a rankless position to the heights of the top twenty teams in the nation. Sponsors Craig Stewart and Patty Roberts took control of the squad to give them much needed direction. The pair is credited with securing financial support. Until recently, the cheerleaders were virtually self-supported and uncoached, receiving little or no aid from the Athletic Association.

Nationally famous cheerleader Coach Pam Trailer, who has had experience with the Atlanta Hawks' and Falcons' cheerleading groups, was a valuable asset to the squad, and her experience was evident in the progress and accomplishments of the year.

Through Trailer's guiding hand and hours of Nautilus training, the squad was ready to attend a summer cheerleading camp, where they were to sail home with nothing but superior and excellent ratings. From there they journeyed to Dallas, Texas for the National Cheerleading Competition finals.

Aiding the cheerleaders at each event was their Reck Club-sponsored mascot Buzz. The exuberant Buzz was actually two people: Jeff Jenkins and John Kluber. Few were aware that Jenkins and Kluber switched places at half-time to avoid exhaustion.

TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT: The Tech cheerleaders ride in style on the Ramblin' Reck. A human pyramid entertains during a timeout. BOTTOM, LEFT TO RIGHT: Mike Swink and Sherry Odom display award winning form. Buzz battles with Alabama's elephant on the sideline.
The driving force of head coach Mike Spino steered the Cross Country Team to a rewarding season. Spino, in his second year with Tech, was named Georgia's Cross Country Coach of the Year.

Although five of the eight team members were freshmen, the youthful harriers presented a major threat to their competition. The strong crop of rookies enabled the Jackets to maintain a competitive edge throughout the year that climaxed at the State Cross Country meet. Tech grabbed the championship with an impressive overall score of 26 points, a feat unusual even for more experienced teams. Bruce McIntyre took State Champ honors as he set a course record. As well as keeping top rank in these individual meets, Tech defeated Duke to take seventh place in the Atlantic Coast Conference Meet.
In a season that hopefully ended a losing tradition, the Tech Golf team again compiled a dismal record. The golfers made their best showing of the season at the Junior-Senior Invitational Tournament, where they finished fourteenth in a field of sixteen teams.

In an attempt to restore the winning attitudes prevalent during the Bobby Jones era, Tech replaced head coach Tommy Plaxico with Puggy Blackmon at the season's end. Blackmon immediately took steps to upgrade the Yellow Jackets' golf program. As Tech's first full-time golf coach, he set as his goal building a team which could compete nationally.

TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT: Bruce McIntyre displays the dedication that won him a first place trophy at the State Meet. Ken Moody sinks one. Jody Lowery blasts out of a trap.
Mid-Season Injury Fails to Diminish Optimism
Headed by twelfth-year coach Bill Beavers, the gymnastics team entered the 1982-83 season aiming for their twelfth consecutive winning season. The squad proved to be extremely talented and posed a real threat to its competition. Things were looking great for the Yellow Jackets until disaster struck in mid-season at the Tech-sponsored invitational meet, in which six Southeastern teams participated. In the first event of the invitational, top gymnast Les Rushing suffered a knee injury that brought the season to a screeching halt for him. The loss of Rushing, who had been voted most valuable team member in 1982, put a damper on the season as well as the invitational for Tech. The Jackets went on to finish fifth of the six teams.

Outstanding performances were given by several gymnasts, including Clay Whitehead in floor exercise, Glen Rolader on the rings, and David Titshaw on the high bar. Titshaw was a top contender for a spot at the NCAA Championships, a competition in which only the top five individuals in the Eastern United States are chosen to participate.

Heavy recruiting was a major concern for the gymnastics team at the close of the season. With four team members graduating and only three returning, emphasis was placed on bringing in new talent to fill the gaps and maintain the thirteen year winning streak.

*TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT:* Glen Rolader dismounts after an impressive performance. Bernard Weston concentrates on the rings. Clay Whitehead’s best event is the floor exercise. *LEFT:* Slow and steady, Joe Vignola points skyward.
The intense workouts paid off for the Men's Swimming Team in that they swam their way to their first winning season in four years. The rigorous training at the start of the season discouraged many freshmen, leaving only the most dedicated to train for the competitive meets ahead. This dedication was exemplified at the Charleston meet, where the Jackets entered as underdogs but generated enough momentum to win.

Four Tech standouts, John Hensley, Jack Oltman, Bruce Elgin and Doug Thomason, went on to compete in the ACC championship. Hensley's consistency and Oltman's leadership helped to maintain a stable team. Elgin has been a record holder in eight events, and Thomason was the only swimmer to hold a pool record.

Replacements for three graduating swimmers won't be easily found, but the men's swim team won't abandon hope or the tough workouts.

*TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT:* With a surge of power, Chris Sylvester kills an unbreakable serve. There's no chance of acing Ruben Cruz. *RIGHT:* The swimming Yellow Jackets are off the blocks and ready to go.
MEN’S TENNIS

Team Posts Its First ACC Win Ever

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A twelve win-eleven loss season record marked improvement over last year’s play for the Men’s Tennis Team. By far, the most impressive match was the win over Maryland, in which Tech won its first ACC match ever.

The Jacket team kept several strong players on the courts, including Barry Cox, Chuck Hyder, and Ruben Cruz. Cruz, a transfer student from Dade Junior College in Miami, had several outstanding wins throughout the year.

At the close of the season the team lost several graduating players, but gained a new coach, Gery Groslimond. In the coming year the athletic department will filter more development funds to the team. With the increased budget, the tennis team will soon have new courts and possibly a courthouse.