All Levels of Athletic Competition are Found at Tech

Between Varsity sports, Club sports, and intramural teams, athletics at Georgia Tech have a place for everyone.

For the serious athlete, Georgia Tech has the Athletic Association which organizes the varsity sports and demands real dedication from its players. Under the G.T.A.A.'s guidance, high school athletes are transformed into All-Americans and pro-athletes.

For those dedicated athletes whose sport is not provided by the G.T.A.A., Club sports provide their organization. Georgia Tech club sports compete against stiff competition from other college teams across the nation.

For many students who just want to play their favorite sport every week, the Intramural Program provides the opportunity, teams to enjoy a competitive game each week and the possibility to win the school championship.

TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT: Laura Rullman waits for a serve. Men's gymnastics is in its last year at Tech.

One of the most successful club sports is the rugby team.

BOTTOM, LEFT TO RIGHT: Tripp Isenhour shows perfect form in his swing. Richard Hills looks for more yardage after catching a pass. The shot put demands both strength and accuracy. Women's soccer is working towards varsity status.
Bobby Ross Takes Over as New Yellow Jacket Coach

When Tech students returned to school in early January, the big news on campus was that Bill Curry, head football coach of the Jackets, had resigned to become head football coach at the University of Alabama. An era had ended. Seven years of fond football memories had been compiled under the Curry regime. While Coach Curry’s first two seasons were dismal because of very inexperienced teams and a very tough schedule, his last five seasons were productive. Curry’s teams won six games twice, three games once, with his best season at Tech being 1985, when the Jackets went 9-2-1. That year, the Jackets won the All-American Bowl against Michigan State and finished the year ranked in the nation’s top 20 for the first time in many years.

Bill Curry was well respected, a man who loved Georgia Tech and everyone associated with the school. Whether dealing with alumni, students, or players, Coach Curry was always friendly, caring, and considerate.

Tech could waste no time finding a replacement at the height of the recruiting season. Athletic Director Dr. Homer Rice and his search committee found a replacement within twenty-four hours of Curry’s departure.

Bobby Ross, a well known ACC personality and former head coach of a successful University of Maryland program, answered Dr. Rice’s call. Ross had been greatly distressed by the state of athletics at Maryland and resigned his position in December. While preparing to move to the Buffalo Bills of the National Football League, he received an invitation to discuss the position at Tech, flew to Atlanta, and accepted the job of head coach. Ross based his quick acceptance on Tech’s “strong commitment to excellence.” The new head coach firmly believes that “Ga. Tech’s strong athletic program and outstanding academic curriculum help make it perhaps the best overall school in the country.” He openly says, “Having my players graduate with a meaningful degree means more to me than winning a bowl game. A guy goes to college in order to learn. Football should be, and will be, secondary to my player’s studies.”

One area that our new coach wants to improve is the football team’s relationship with the students. Coach Ross wants to put microphones on the field by the student section after each game and have himself and the rest of the team answer student questions. “Without student support our team has no motivation to play. It is a great feeling when you hear thousands of people yelling and cheering for you for the entire game.”

The first task that Ross encountered upon coming to Tech was the replacement of the assistant coaches who went to Alabama with Bill Curry. Within two weeks, Coach Ross brought in a staff of “proven winners” from schools located all around the country. “I feel very fortunate to have such good men to work with,” said Ross, “the ACC conference will be very strong next year, and I now feel that we will contend for the season title.”

Looking back on his championship years at Maryland, where he won the ACC title two out of five years, Ross compares his new team to his old Terrapin teams. “Bill (Curry) was a great man and an excellent coach. I know that I am inheriting a very good and sound football program here,” Ross said. Changes will be made, however, both on and off the field. “I want the team to represent Georgia Tech for what it stands for — a great educational institution with a superior athletic program.”

On the field, Coach Ross feels that a new offensive scheme should be implemented at Tech. Ross explained, “We will shoot from the hip — we will make things happen. My team will be on the attack for the full sixty minutes of all eleven games.” As for the passing game, Ross says, “most schools promise to throw the ball; at Georgia Tech, we now have a commitment to throw. You will be seeing a different Yellow Jacket team next year and you will like what you see!”

Joining Ross and the coaching staff as new Jackets will be new high school recruits and college transfers. They will hopefully help the team drive to an ACC championship with Coach Ross at the helm. As for goals for the 1987 Georgia Tech football team, Coach Ross wants “to go out and get better each day, represent Tech for what it is, win the ACC title, and of course, go to a major bowl game.”

Coach Ross, welcome to Georgia Tech.

LEFT: Coach Bobby Ross is introduced to Georgia Tech fans during halftime at a home basketball game by Tech athletic director Dr. Homer Rice. ABOVE: Busy as a bee, Coach Ross takes care of some paperwork at his desk.
Opponents Deprive Jackets of Early Wins

The 1986 Yellow Jackets began the season with a home date with the Furman Paladins. A large crowd at Grant Field saw the Yellow Jackets struggle through the entire game which ended in a very frustrating and disappointing 17-17 tie. After a strong finish last season, Tech had very high hopes for the '86 season. Coach Bill Curry called the Furman game "a very big emotional downer" for the whole team, but continued that "this game will teach us what we need to improve on to make this season successful."

Although the game was disappointing, there were several Tech players who played well. Cory Collier rushed for 50 yards. Quarterback Rick Strom passed for 180 yards and scored a touchdown, and receiver Gary Lee caught a touchdown pass.

The Jackets' second game of the season was an ACC battle against Virginia in Charlottesville. After their showing the week earlier, the Engineers wanted to prove to everyone that they were a good team. They did just that by fielding an opportunistic offensive game and a very stubborn and tough defensive game. The Jackets won 28-14.

The Ramblin Wreck, led by sophomore Cedric Stallworth and senior Reginald Rutland, forced seven Cavalier turnovers and gave the Tech offensive unit very good field position for most of the game. Quarterback Rick Strom passed for 150 yards and two touchdowns and sophomore back Nate Kesley ran for 107 yards and scored one TD to lead a very impressive offensive attack of the Virginia defense.

The Jackets' third game was another ACC battle, this time against Clemson at Grant Field. Coming off the impressive victory of the week before, the Engineers were looking to defeat a very tough Clemson team who had revenge of last year's loss on their mind. The Tigers got their revenge, and then some, as they gave the Yellow Jackets an "old-fashioned whipping," and won the game 27-3. "We got beat by a real good team," said Coach Curry. "We got beat every way one team can beat another. They came out in a business-like way and just killed us. Nothing went right for us during the game, these days happen to everyone I guess it was our day."

Another team with revenge on their mind was the North Carolina Tar Heels, who hosted Georgia Tech for the Engineer's third ACC battle of the season. Laying to rest their shellacking by Tech last year, the Tar Heels mounted two impressive second half drives to come back and beat the Yellow Jackets in a very close 21-20 game that was not decided until the last few seconds of the battle.

After a sluggish first half, Tech's offense, led by tailback Jerry Mays and quarterback Rick Atrom, finally got on track and scored two second half touchdowns. After a late field goal by placekicker David Bell, the Jackets' 20-14 lead seemed to indicate a Yellow Jacket victory. A lapse in the young Tech defense, however, allowed the Tar Heels to move 70 yards very quickly and score the winning touchdown.

After two frustrating losses in the ACC, the Yellow Jackets needed a victory badly against North Carolina State in order to stay in the ACC race. The Jackets succeeded in channeling their emotions into...
a Wolfpack slaughter, 59-21. Tech scored on all but five of its possessions, accumulating more points in a game by any Tech team since 1937.

The offensive fire power was directed by backup quarterback Darrell Gast (who replaced injured starter Rick Strom), sophomore sensation Jerry Mays, and senior speedster Gary Lee. Mays ran for 190 yards and three touchdowns as well as throwing a touchdown pass. Gast, in his first extensive college action, threw for 111 yards and two touchdowns, one to tight end Robert Massey on a fake field goal play. Gary Lee electrified the crowd and dismayed the opposition by returning a kickoff 99 yards for a touchdown just after the Pack scored to pull within seven points. "Gary's return broke their back," Curry said, "our whole performance killed the Wolfpack."

LEFT TO RIGHT: Darrell rolls out to pass as Buzz looks on. Shane Curry and George Malone lead a Tech takedown. Cedric Stallworth stops a Furman receiver. Rick Strom rolls out to find a target. Andre Thomas and Rod White lead an aggressive tackle. Rick Strom prepares to hand the ball off to Jerry Mays as the linemen up front try to clear a path for him to run.
The Jackets’ sixth opponent of the season was an undefeated and fifth-ranked Auburn team with aspirations of a national championship. This determined Tiger team was not about to let the Engineers spoil their quest. Auburn tailback Brent Fullwood single-handedly destroyed the Black Watch defense with 150 yards rushing and two touchdowns. Fullwood’s performance helped the Tigers achieve a 31-10 victory on their home turf.

The Jackets’ lone touchdown of the game came on a third quarter one yard run by tailback Jerry Mays. Mays’ score was set up by a 54 yard bomb from Rick Strom to tight-end Tim Manion.

Tech returned to Grant Field for a battle with Tennessee on a misty and foggy night. For the third time in as many years, the game’s outcome was decided by a field goal attempt on the last play of the game. Unlike the past two years, though, the Yellow-Jackets came away with a
14-13 victory after the Vols’ kicker hit the upright on a 40 yard field goal try.

The Ramblin’ Wreck’s running game was the fire power needed to score its two touchdowns. The first score came on a 88 yard drive highlighted by Jerry Mays’ 20 and 18 yard runs and the 5 yard scoring play by Malcom King. The Jackets’ second score, a fourth quarter 3 yard run by quarterback Rick Strom, came when Tennessee was up 13-7 and seemed to have the game under control.

Homecoming this year climaxed with a Tech 34-6 drubbing of Duke, but the Jackets’ suffered many injuries that seemed to mar the joy of the victory. One injury, to freshman tailback Alphonzo Thomas, seemed to be very serious at first. Thankfully, he only slightly injured his back and will be able to continue his football career. Gary Lee, Rick Strom, and Chris Conard were also hurt in the game. On the bright side, Tech’s defense played a spectacular game, holding the Blue Devils to 137 total yards and forcing six turnovers. The most notable defensive play came in the second quarter when linebacker John Porter picked off a Steve Slayden pass and romped 22 yards untouched for a touchdown.

The offense racked up 400 yards including 82 rushing yards by Jerry Mays 120 passing yards by back-up quarterback Darrell Gast. Three of Gast’s seven completions were touchdown strikes to Tim Manion, Cory Collier and Mays.

The Jacket’s next game was a battle between the small, young, and inexperienced and ineffective Keydets of Virginia Military Institute. The Jackets piled up over 500 yards total offense and scored 7 touchdowns en route to a 52-6 romp. This game, which proved to be an incredible mismatch, was decided after the first quarter, during which Tech scored 3 touchdowns. The Jackets’ offense ran for 390 yards, chiefly through the efforts of Jerry Mays, Malcom King, and Cory Collier. Darrell Gast threw for 110 yards and two touchdowns as he continued to be the best quarterback in the ACC. With this win, the Jackets assured themselves of a .500 season and only needed one more win to achieve a winning season.

A Tech victory at Wake Forest the next week would have meant a trip to the Bluebonnet Bowl and a date with the Baylor Bears. The Deamon Deacons spoiled the Jackets’ New Year’s plans with a 24-21 upset led by first time starter quarterback Jamie Harris.

The Jackets were playing a catchup game and came from behind several times to lead. The offense had a tough time moving the ball on a determined Deacon defense; Coach Curry used two quarterbacks and trick plays to try to win the game. Fumbles and other mental errors cost the Engineers the chance for a second consecutive bowl game, though, and Tech traveled home thinking about next week’s war with Georgia.

TOP LEFT: John Porter and Kevin Salisbury cut short a VMI play. BOTTOM LEFT: Junior fullback Malcom King takes advantage of a gap in Duke’s defense. MIDDLE: Rick Strom’s strong arm was not enough to defeat Auburn.
Bulldogs Winners in the Battle Between the Hedges

Georgia Tech went into this year's game against the Georgia Bulldogs with a disappointing 5-4-1 record. In addition to their mediocre record, the team suffered the loss of two friends, Sgt. Gary Beringause of the Georgia Tech police and Jim Luck, Assistant Athletic Director in an auto accident on the day of the game. Head coach Bill Curry and the rest of the Jackets felt that a win in Athens would help soften the season's letdowns and give the team a brighter outlook towards next season.

The game was a tough war between the hedges. The Bulldogs showed their powerful running game, but the Yellow Jackets kept them in check with effective passing. After two straight losses to Tech, Georgia was determined to come away from the game victorious. This victory was assured when the Dogs stopped the Engineers on a crucial fourth down play late in the fourth quarter. The battle was well fought; it was tough to see one team walk away with a loss.

Scoring seemed easy for both teams as they racked up more points than had been scored in any Tech-UGA game since 1982. Tech quarterback Rick Strom led an eighty-three yard drive resulting in a one yard touchdown plunge by fullback Malcolm King in the first half. King's score was set up by a fifty yard pass from Strom to senior flanker Gary Lee. Lee, in his last game as a Yellow Jacket, had a big day with 122 yards rushing and one touchdown.

The second half was highlighted by a fifty-five yard field goal by senior David Bell, the longest of his career. The Jackets led 24-21 at the end of the third quarter, but the final quarter belonged to Georgia as they manhandled a tired Tech defense and scored 10 points to lead 31-24. The Engineers had one final shot to score with only two minutes left to play. Tech could not convert on a fourth down play at the Georgia thirty yard line, and this sealed the Dogs' victory.

With the 1986 season over, Tech will return thirteen defensive and twelve offensive starters including three year letterman Ivey Lee at noseguard and the ACC's fourth leading rusher, Jerry Mays at tailback. A strong quarterback corps will also highlight the 1987 Tech team.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Head Coach Bill Curry's expression reflects Tech's performance in the Tech-UGA game. Alert Jacket player prevents Georgia from gaining any further ground. Sophomore tailback Jerry Mays heads for a temporary hole in UGA's defense.
Baby Jackets Exonerate Loss by Pounding Bullpups
In their first game, the Junior Varsity football team had many turnovers and poorly executed plays which resulted in a 34-3 loss to Marion Military Institute. The Marion game was a nightmare for everyone on the team, as the offensive total was -2 yards, and the defense gave up scoring runs on very ineffective tackling. One bright spot on this very cold November day was the kicking of junior punter Steve Lindsey. Lindsey, who punted over a half dozen times, averaged 40 yards a kick on a very windy day.

After two weeks of very tough, hard-hitting practices where many new offensive schemes were invented, the team came out and played like the winners they really were. They beat a very good Georgia Bullpup team 20-14 at the annual Scottish Rite Shrine Game. Walk-on Alex Tymchuck rushed for 161 yards and scored two touchdowns. Tymchuck, a senior, scored on a one yard run and on a 39 yard burst, as he led an impressive and motivated Tech team to victory. Baby Jacket rushers ran for 290 yards behind the strong offensive line led by freshmen Sins Harmon and John Bray, and sophomore Wayne Mote.

The maturity of the team was best displayed by freshman quarterback Neil Williams who had a tough first game but played well against UGA. Hopefully the experience that the Baby Jackets got from this up and down season will aid them in next year’s play.

TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT: Neil Williams avoids a rusher in the annual Tech-UGA JV game to benefit Scottish Rite. Jacket defensive end Wes Williams sacks quarterback Joey Hester. Players pile up after a Tech rushing play. BOTTOM: Wes Williams puts the heat on Joey Hester.
Win Streak Saves Winning Season

In 1987, the Atlantic Coast Conference remained one of the best leagues in the country because of its great recruiting, fast-paced games and action-packed offensive and defensive battles. The ACC also became one of the most inter-competitive conferences this year. The Yellow Jackets found out first hand just how tough the ACC had become. Throughout the 14 game conference schedule, Tech was very shaky and played inconsistently on their way to a 7-7 disappointing conference record and a 5th place finish in ACC league play.

For some ACC teams, a 7-7 record would be welcomed, but not for the Yellow Jackets who were 22-6 in the ACC over the past two seasons. There are several reasons why Tech slipped in conference play, but the main factor that caused the Jackets' decline this year was their youth and inexperience on the court. Georgia Tech, a national powerhouse in basketball over the past four years, was faced with an extremely tough rebuilding process after losing its two star players to graduation and the NBA. Mark Price and John Salley's graduation left the Jackets' head coach Bobby Cremins with a team with no apparent leaders on it, a quality that a team needs if it is to be successful.

Replacing Mark Price was no easy task for Cremins either. He chose junior Indiana native Craig Neal to start as the team's point guard and leader over freshman Brian Oliver. Neal, called "Noodles" by friends and fans, responded to the starting role as well as he could and helped the team in several crucial plays throughout the early ACC schedule.

In the first seven games of the ACC schedule, Ford and Neal played well in their new roles, as Tech beat Wake Forest on the road and lost to North Carolina State by a point. While Tech's new starters played well at first, the workhorses of the team continued to play in their All-American form. Bruce Dalrymple, the outstanding senior guard and forwards Tom Hammonds and Duane Ferrell always gave 100 percent and gave the team the spark that the Yellow Jackets needed so many times throughout the year. The three players averaged a combined 46 points a game as well as 21 rebounds a game. Three players do not make a team, though, so a lot of pressure fell on the inexperienced Antoine Ford and Craig Neal.

For a while, these two were able to handle the pressures of the rigorous ACC play. But during the two home games with Virginia and Clemson, everything seemed to fall apart for the whole team. The guards shot poorly and made too many turnovers, and the forwards and center did not contribute with the physical power needed under the basket. Changes had to be made in order for the Yellow Jackets to be a competitive force in the ACC. Two freshmen were called in by Coach Cremins to try and fill the void of strong play by the others, and to try and revive the team in time to be ready for ACC and NCAA tournament play. So with a 1-4 ACC record and a 9-8 overall mark, Cremins brought in Brian Oliver to become the starting point guard and freshman James Munlyn to platoon with Ford at center.

Munlyn and Oliver's placement into the starting lineup had an immediate impact on the team, as Tech beat national powerhouse Duke by ten points. After a close loss, the Yellow Jackets then proceeded to run off victories over Maryland twice, Wake Forest, Georgia State and North Carolina State. This six game winning streak gave Tech a 15-8 overall record and a 5-4 ACC mark as the ACC and NCAA tournaments neared.

Clockwise from near right: Junior Duane Ferrell stretches to get two from underneath. Forward Tom Hammonds seems to fly as he goes up for a lay-up. Hammonds follows the game closely while attempting to break free from his Clemson opponent. Guard Craig Neal maneuvers around N.C. State player to make a pass across the court.
Overseas Games Ready Team For Regular Season Play
The first game of the Yellow Jackets' season was a battle between two nations: an exhibition game with the Soviet Union's National Team at Alexander Memorial Coliseum. A packed house of nine thousand anxious, rowdy and hopeful fans filled the newly renovated stadium. Although Tech was the younger, slower, and smaller of the two teams, the Yellow Jackets hung close to the Russians, relying on the superb play of forward Duane Ferrell and guard Bruce Dalrymple. Coach Bobby Cremins saw his Jackets, ranked sixth in national preseason polls, lose the exhibition, but gain valuable experience and confidence for the regular season.

The regular season's first nine games saw the Jackets playing overseas in Japan, and in two northeast tournaments. Game One of the '87 season was a victory over Stanford in the Richmond University Holiday Classic. The next game saw the Jackets lose a close one to the host Spiders, in spite of a 26 point performance by Duane Ferrell.

Back in Atlanta for two quick games, the Yellow Jackets were very impressive in their routs of Pennsylvania and Georgia. "We played like I knew we could," said Coach Cremins. "The Bulldog game," won mainly because of Craig Neal's fine passing and Tom Hammond's 20 point performance, "seemed to get us clicking... on track for a great year," said Bruce Dalrymple.

After a close loss at Louisiana State, the Yellow Jackets embarked on a 17,000 mile journey to Tokyo, Japan to play Boston College and Southern Methodist University. Despite the different climate and altitude, the Jackets won both games easily and took in the sights of the city.

Although very tired from a long week in Tokyo, the Jackets flew immediately to the Big Apple to participate in the Holiday Festival Classic at Madison Square Garden. Facing Rutgers in the first round, the Jackets outplayed the smaller Knights enroute to a championship berth against national powerhouse St. John's. In a game where Tech learned that improvements had to take place soon for them to be a competitive force in the ACC and on a national level, the Redmen soundly defeated the Yellow Jackets and sent them home to Atlanta with a 6-3 record and a full ACC schedule ahead of them.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Freshman Brian Oliver attempts a steal against Georgia State player. Duane Ferrell shows off his backward slam. Ferrell enjoys the feeling of great slam shot. Tom Hammond goes for the lay-up. Senior Bruce Dalrymple watches the defense set up as he dribbles across the court.
The additions of James Munlyn and Brian Oliver into game regulars helped the struggling Jackets enormously. During the six game winning streak, the Yellow Jackets picked up five ACC wins. With only four regular season games remaining in the season, the Jackets had a 15-9 record and an apparent easy bid into the NCAA tournament. But the Jackets ran into a tough Virginia team on the road who was also fighting for an NCAA bid. Dalrymple and Hammonds who had shone so brilliantly over the winning streak began to struggle, shooting poorly, and committing many turnovers. Tech lost a heartbreaker to Virginia by a point, but then went on to beat Duke at their place. That win seemed to lock up an NCAA bid, but Coach Cremins wanted Tech to finish strong. This would not happen, though, as the Yellow Jackets were blown out by DePaul in Chicago and by North Carolina in the Omni. The ACC tournament opened up at Maryland with Georgia Tech playing Virginia again. The Cavaliers, winners of two against Tech this year, both wins at the buzzer, won their third in a row over Tech again on a last second shot. For the first time in three years, the Yellow Jackets lost in the first round. After a week off, the Yellow Jackets traveled to Chicago to face Louisiana State in the first round of the NCAA tournament. LSU, who eliminated Tech in last year’s NCAA’s, again beat Tech to end their season on a 16-13 sour note. While the 1986-87 season ended disappointingly for Georgia Tech, next year’s team will benefit from this year’s experience, with only one person graduating from the squad and two freshman sensations joining up next year.
Talented Individuals Lead Lady Jackets to Victories

Behind the Lady Jackets' impressive season was the outstanding performances of its individual members. For instance, senior guard Tory Ehle and junior center Dolores Bootz became only the fifth and sixth players in Lady Jacket history to score more than 1,000 points in their careers. Bootz is currently ranked third on Tech's all-time list with 1,139 points while Ehle ranks fifth with 1,077.

Bootz was able to break the 1,000 point mark by scoring in double figures in 24 out of 26 games, an average of 18.1 points per game. She was additionally vital to the Lady Jackets by averaging 11.4 rebounds (top rebounder in the ACC) and having 67 blocked shots. Ehle contributed to the winning season by executing 400 assists to become the all-time assist leader in Tech history. Junior forward Marielle Walker and junior guard Hea Ju Moon were also important players as the team's second and third leading scorers.

Several Lady Jacket players were recognized for their outstanding performances at the invitationals the team attended this season. MVP awards were given to Bootz at the Radisson Classic and Pepperdine Invitational. Walker was recognized for her impressive performance at the Lady Blazer Invitational by receiving the invitational's MVP award and becoming only the second Lady Jacket in school history to earn ACC Player of the Week honors.
Georgia Tech's Women's Basketball Team finished the regular season with a 14-12 record, 5-9 in the ACC. This was head coach Bernadette McGlade's first winning season at Tech and the first since Tech upgraded the program to Division I level in 1979. In addition to all these accomplishments, Tech had its highest finish ever in the ACC with a sixth-place showing and conference wins against Wake Forest, Clemson, and Maryland.

The Lady Jackets pummelled their opponents by opening the season with eight straight wins and three tournament championships (Radisson Classic beating Santa Barbara and Seton Hall, Lady Blazer Invitational beating Florida and UAB, Pepperdine Invitational beating Utah State and Pepperdine). Tech was also able to beat its first nationally-ranked opponent with an 81-80 overtime win over then 13-ranked Maryland in Alexander Memorial Coliseum. The Lady Jackets also captured their first season sweeps of an ACC opponent by beating Wake Forest twice and Clemson twice. Before this season, Tech had won only one ACC road game in its history. This year's team upped that number to three by beating both Clemson and Wake Forest on the road.

As a result of their outstanding season, the Lady Jackets received their first national recognition by receiving votes for the Top 20 polls of both the Associated Press and USA Today.
The 1985-1986 Lady Jackets softball team, headed by Coach Terry Chambers, was very successful. Their 20-12 record was largely attributed to an experienced squad with four seniors.

The offensive MVP was senior Nancy Barnes; the defensive MVP was Sherri Holder. The Yellow Jacket Award went to Lisa LaFave, and the overall MVP was Maria McGaha who had a batting average of .425 and a fielding average of 98%.

The team participated in the Pensacola Tournament in which the Lady Jackets placed third out of ten teams.

The team closed their last season as a slow pitch team with a winning record. Next year, they will need to go through a very intensive rebuilding program because the sport is officially going fast pitch and has become part of the varsity women's sport program.
Jackets Transform Poor Start to Record Winning Season

What does a defending ACC championship baseball team do when faced with its worst season start on record? If the team is the Joltin' Jackets of 1986, it not only keeps its ACC title, but also ends the season with its best record.

The 1986 spring season for the Jackets began with a disappointing 0-8 start. Coach Jim Morris strove to improve the pitching game as the season got into full swing. "We're looking at the (upcoming) ACC games as the beginning of a new season," noted Morris.

The 1986 spring season for the Jackets began with a disappointing 0-8 start. Coach Jim Morris strove to improve the pitching game as the season got into full swing. "We're looking at the (upcoming) ACC games as the beginning of a new season," noted Morris.

Coach Morris was not mistaken in foretelling a "new season"; the Recks Rambled on to win 15 out of the next 17 games, a school record for winning streaks, and to win all five of their ACC games. After winning two of three games with the University of New Orleans, the Jackets faced tough opponents such as North Carolina, N.C. State, and Clemson, each a contender in the conference race. Despite the injuries of right fielder Carl Sitler and reserve catcher Pete Stephens, the Jackets performed outstandingly, ending the regular season at 37-21, 10-4 in the ACC, to achieve their best regular season record. The team had earned a place in the upcoming ACC tournament and were optimistic of keeping their 1985 ACC title.

TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT: Ty Griffin shows his talent for stealing bases. A strong pitching team was vital to the Jackets' winning season. Jeff Distasio attempts to cut off a runner at first. BOTTOM: Will the throw be in time?
Joltin Jackets Hold on to ACC Title

There was no shortage of great pitchers as the Georgia Tech Baseball Team went into the 1986 ACC Tournament. Coach Jim Morris described his starters Kevin Brown, Roger Kinard, and Todd Shiver and relievers Jim Poole and Keith Fleming as "the best" in the ACC. The outstanding performance of the entire pitching staff allowed the Jackets to dominate the tournament and win their second ACC title in a row. Junior Kevin Brown was the ACC leader in victories, strikeouts, and fewest hits allowed per nine innings. He is considered one of the top five draft prospects in the country. Brown and his teammates Kinard and Shiver, each picked up a victory in the tournament, while the unbeatable relief duo of Fleming and Poole slammed the door on Tech's opponents, combining for 15 shutout innings, one win, and three saves.

While the Jackets' pitchers were silencing their opponents' bats, their own team was making dramatic game-winning hits. First-baseman Jeff Distasio hit a ninth-inning grand slam to rally Tech to a victory over Maryland in the first round. Distasio went on to hit four more homers and knock in 12 runs to earn the tournament MVP award. Tech's championship team outscored such tough opponents as Maryland, NC State, Clemson, and UNC to sweep the tournament and to hold on to their 1985 ACC title.

Having kept their ACC title, the Jackets headed toward the NCAA Tournament for the second year in a row, a first in Tech's baseball history. Tech's pitching game weakened when they faced Navy, but it was the top-seeded University of Miami Hurricanes that finally eliminated the Jackets in the second round of the tournament. It was a disappointing finish to an excellent season. The Jackets finished at 45-23, an ACC record for wins, and Jacket pitchers had their best collective E.R.A. since 1973.
Trying to imagine a Georgia Tech sporting event without our energetic cheerleaders is like trying to imagine a birthday cake without candles. These dedicated men and women spend countless hours perfecting those fantastic aerobatic feats and developing the strong voices necessary to rally the support of the Yellow Jacket fans.

This year saw a popular addition to the cheerleading staff, a giant inflated Buzz which resided at the south end of Grant Field. Buzz’s appreciation for his giant counterpart was evidenced by his bowing worship and the occasional sacrifice of an opposing cheerleader.

This year, the duty of bringing Buzz to life was shared by Tech students Mike Kluber and Jeff Cunningham. Although bringing Buzz to life is hard work, these two students have a lot of fun entertaining Yellow Jacket fans of all ages.

*TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT:* Tech’s mic-man, Jeff Butler, gets the fans’ attention. Mark Moon holds Kim Gowan up high for a cheer. A young Tech fan and a Tech police officer are amused by Buzz’s antics. *BOTTOM:* Buzz plays dead on the sideline during the VMI game.
Energetic Squad Rallies Fans to Show Enthusiasm
Young Program Obtaining Respect

The Lady Jacket harriers began their second season in existence with high hopes of equaling last year's state championship record.

In the season opener, the Georgia State Invitational, the team took fifth place in a field of 12. It was clear that the Lady Jackets were facing stiffer competition than they had encountered the year before. "I would rather be beaten by the best than have an easy season," said Coach Dee Todd.

The following week found the team taking second place at the UT-Chattanooga Invitational. Junior Bridget Koster was the first Lady Jacket to finish, as she had been at Georgia State. It was apparent that Koster would be the one to watch this year.

The Lady Jackets failed to retain their title, coming in second at the Georgia Intercollegiate State Championships. Coach Todd was pleased with the performance saying, "The team has run up to our expectations and beyond."

Following a sixth place finish at the Virginia Invitational, the Lady Jackets prepared for the ACC Championship which would field 5 teams ranked in the top 20 in the nation. This made it the toughest conference in the country, according to Coach Todd. The team managed to place sixth, while Bridget Koster placed sixth overall, making her the first Lady Jacket harrier to make All-Conference.

The team wrapped up a very respectable season with a 12th place finish in the 42 school NCAA Regionals. "We have upgraded our schedule and have shown the other schools that they can no longer take for granted that it will be easy to beat Georgia Tech," noted Coach Todd.
MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

New Head Coach Proud of Young Runners

The men's cross country team began the season with new head coach, Steve Keith, and a new lineup.

After losing six of their seven top runners from last year, the harriers were relying on returning senior Alan Drosky to lead the young team. The runners were looking forward to gaining experience this season and possibly finishing fourth or fifth in the ACC.

The harriers began with third place finishes at the Georgia State Invitational, Tar Heel Invitational, and Clemson Invitational. The next week found them finishing first in the State Championship, with Alan Drosky capturing the state individual title. Coach Keith was honored as the Georgia Coach-of-the-Year at the meet.

At the Florida Invitational, each runner put in his own personal best time, which combined for the Jackets' best team performance of the year. With the momentum gained in Florida, Coach Keith was hoping for a good performance at the ACC Championship, but it was not to be. The team finished seventh in a field of eight. Drosky, however, finished eighth overall — the best finish ever by a Tech runner in that tournament.

The harriers ended the season with a respectable fifteenth place finish at the NCAA Regionals. Coach Keith was very pleased with the performance his young team gave for the season. "Our guys had a lot of fun this season."
This year's Yellow Jacket wrestling team was a young one, consisting of three freshmen and five sophomores. The 1987 season provided them the chance to gain valuable experience and confidence.

Contributing to an overall 6-3-1 season, several of the grapplers gave superior individual showings. Sophomore Chad Karl (118) and freshman Greg Woodcock (126) gave especially outstanding performances. Sophomore Wayne Higginbotham (142) also had an outstanding record.

Coach Lowell Lange has high hopes for the team next year. His plans include bringing in new recruits and having a better practice facility.

BOTTOM: Scott Romine pinned by teammate Tom Rickard. RIGHT PAGE, TOP TO BOTTOM: Citadel opponent brought to his knees. Tom Krawser tapes Steve Moeller's foot. Davison opponent held by Jim Stradley. Wayne Higginbotham takes on Davison opponent. Greg Woodcock warms up.