2008 SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY
22 Fri. YOUNGSTOWN STATE 4 p.m.
23 Sat. YOUNGSTOWN STATE 2 p.m.
24 Sun. YOUNGSTOWN STATE 1 p.m.
26 Tue. GEORGIA SOUTHERN 4 p.m.
27 Wed. GEORGIA SOUTHERN 4 p.m.
29 Fri. RUTGERS 4 p.m.

MARCH
1 Sat. RUTGERS 4 p.m.
2 Sun. RUTGERS 1 p.m.
4 Tue. WESTERN CAROLINA 4 p.m.
5 Wed. KENNESAW STATE 4 p.m.
7 Fri. VIRGINIA TECH 4 p.m.
9 Sun. VIRGINIA TECH 1 p.m.
12 Wed. at Georgia State 6 p.m.
14 Fri. at Florida State 6 p.m.
15 Sat. at Florida State 6 p.m.
16 Sun. at Florida State 1 p.m.
18 Tue. at Kennesaw State 6 p.m.
19 Wed. MERCER 6 p.m.
21 Fri. DUKE 6 p.m.
22 Sat. DUKE 2 p.m.
23 Sun. DUKE 1 p.m.
25 Tue. GEORGIA STATE 6 p.m.
26 Wed. ALABAMA STATE 6 p.m.
28 Fri. at Boston College 2:30 p.m.
29 Sat. at Boston College 1 p.m.
30 Sun. at Boston College 1 p.m.

APRIL
1 Tue. EAST TENNESSEE STATE 6 p.m.
2 Wed. EAST TENNESSEE STATE 6 p.m.
4 Fri. at North Carolina 7 p.m.
5 Sat. at North Carolina 6 p.m.
6 Sun. at North Carolina 1 p.m.
9 Wed. GEORGIA 7 p.m.
11 Fri. MIAMI 7 p.m.
12 Sat. MIAMI 7 p.m.
13 Sun. MIAMI 1 p.m.
15 Tue. at Georgia Southern 6 p.m.
16 Wed. at Georgia Southern 7 p.m.
18 Fri. at Maryland 7 p.m.
19 Sat. at Maryland 4 p.m.
20 Sun. at Maryland 1 p.m.
22 Tue. at Mercer 6 p.m.
25 Fri. WAKE FOREST 7 p.m.
26 Sat. WAKE FOREST [RSN] 1 p.m.
27 Sun. WAKE FOREST 1 p.m.

MAY
2 Fri. COASTAL CAROLINA 7 p.m.
3 Sat. COASTAL CAROLINA 7 p.m.
4 Sun. COASTAL CAROLINA 7 p.m.
7 Wed. at Georgia 7 p.m.
9 Fri. CLEMSON 7 p.m.
10 Sat. CLEMSON 7 p.m.
11 Sun. CLEMSON 1 p.m.
13 Tue. vs. Georgia (at Turner Field) 7 p.m.
15 Thu. at Virginia 6 p.m.
16 Fri. at Virginia 6 p.m.
17 Sat. at Virginia 1 p.m.

POSTSEASON
May 21 - 25 at ACC Tournament (Jacksonville, Fla.)
May 30 - June 2 NCAA Regionals (Campus Sites)
June 6 - 9 NCAA Super Regionals (Campus Sites)
June 13 - 23 College World Series (Omaha, Neb.)

Credits
The Georgia Tech Baseball Yearbook has been judged by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association as the Best in the Nation four times since 1986.

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Tech’s Travel Headquarters

FLORIDA STATE
Mar. 14-16
Tallahassee Capitol Courtyard
1018 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, Fl. 32301
(850) 222-8822

BOSTON COLLEGE
Mar. 28-30
Sheraton Newton
320 Washington Street
Newton, Mass. 02458
(617) 630-2931

NORTH CAROLINA
Apr. 4-6
Embassy Suites
201 Hampton Oaks Boulevard
Cary, NC. 27513
(919) 677-1840

GEORGIA SOUTHERN
Apr. 15-16
Holiday Inn Express
425 South Main Street
Statesboro, Ga. 30458
(912) 489-7368

MARYLAND
Apr. 18-20
Marriott Greenbelt
4600 Ivy Lound
Greenbelt, Md. 20770
(301) 441-3700

VIRGINIA
May 15-17
DoubleTree Hotel
990 Hilton Heights Road
Charlottesville, Va. 22901
(434) 973-2121

ACC TOURNAMENT
May 21-22
Embassy Suites
9300 Baymeadows Road
Jacksonville, Fl. 32256
(904) 899-9510

General Information

Just Georgia Tech, Please
Georgia Tech University sounds official, but it’s incorrect. The Georgia Institute of Technology is the school’s official title, but Georgia Tech will work fine, or just Tech (unless you’re in Virginia or Texas). We would appreciate it if you would use our name in those ways. Thanks.
Georgia Tech Sports Information

Sports Information Phone: 404-894-5445
Sports Information Fax: 404-894-1246
Internet Address: www.ramblinwreck.com
Mailing Address: Georgia Tech Athletic Association, 150 Bobby Dodd Way, N.W., Atlanta, Ga., 30332-0455

Dean Buchan (UNC Wilmington '87), Assistant Director of Athletics for Media Relations
(Cell) 404-295-8703 dbuchan@athletics.gatech.edu
Mika Stamus (Virginia Tech '82), Associate Director of Communications
(Cell) 404-218-9723 mstamus@athletics.gatech.edu
Cheryl Watts (Georgia Tech '02), Assistant Director (baseball contact)
(Cell) 404-502-4377 cwatts@athletics.gatech.edu
Dan Goldberger (SUNY New Paltz '03), Assistant Director
(Cell) 646-872-7568 dgoldberger@athletics.gatech.edu
Seth Gerard (Massachusetts '02), Assistant Director
(Cell) 774-279-4461 sgerard@athletics.gatech.edu

Georgia Tech Directory

Athletic Association

Main Switchboard ................................................................. 404-894-5400
Dan Radakovich, Director of Athletics ................................. 404-894-5411
Paul Griffin, Senior Associate Athletic Director .................. 404-894-5780
Jim Hall, Associate Athletic Director/Development .............. 404-894-8219
Wayne Hogan, Associate Athletic Director/Public Relations .... 404-894-6265
Phyllis LaBaw, Associate Athletic Director/Academics ......... 404-894-4433
Mollie Simmons Mayfield, Associate Athletic Director/CFO ... 404-385-0596
Jack Thompson, Associate Athletic Director/Development ...... 404-894-5427
Dean Buchan, Assistant Athletic Director/Media Relations .... 404-894-5445
Scott McLaren, Assistant Athletic Director/Ticketing & Sales ... 404-385-2047
Paul Parker, Assistant Athletic Director/Compliance ................ 404-894-8792
Theresa Wenzel, Assistant Athletic Director/Senior Woman Administrator 404-894-4462
Eric Ciano, Director of Player Development ......................... 404-894-3961
Wes Durham, Director of Broadcasting ......................... 404-385-0594
Jennifer Pierre, Director of Promotions and Events .............. 404-894-4400
Jay Shoop, Director of Sports Medicine ......................... 404-894-5460
Shawn Teske, Director of Facilities ........................................ 404-894-6668

Baseball Offices
Danny Hall, Head Coach ............................................... (office) 404-894-5471, (home) 770-667-3264
Tom Kinkelaar, Assistant Coach ................................ (office) 404-894-5081, (home) 770-664-9441
Bryan Prince, Assistant Coach ............................................ (office) 404-894-5393, (home) 770-436-9016
Nick Scherer, Director of Baseball Operations ................... (office) 404-894-2261
Walter Smith, Trainer ......................................................... (office) 404-385-0979

Russ Chandler Stadium Press Box ......................................... 404-894-3167

Atlantic Coast Conference

P.O. Drawer ACC
Greensboro, N.C. 27417-6724
(336) 854-8787
website: www.theacc.com

Media Relations Staff

Brian Morrison .......................... Associate Commissioner for Media Relations
Mike Finn ............................ Associate Commissioner for Football Media Relations
Lyddie Dorgan ....................... Assistant Director
Kristie Le ............................ Associate Director
Barb Dery ............................. Administrative Assistant
Phone .................................. (336) 851-6062
Fax .................................. (336) 854-8797
E-mail .................................. first initial & last name@theacc.org
Website ................................ www.theacc.com

Georgia Tech At-A-Glance

Location: Atlanta, Ga. 30332
Enrollment: 16,793
Founded: 1885
Colors: Old Gold and White
Nicknames: Yellow Jackets, Rambling Wreck
Mascot: “Buzz” the Yellow Jacket
Conference: Atlantic Coast (since 1979)
Home Field: Russ Chandler Stadium (capacity 4,157)
Dimensions: LF-328, LF-391; CF-400, CF-353; RF-334
Height of Fences: 10 feet
2007 Record: 32-25 overall
2007 ACC Record: 15-14 (7th overall/4th-Coastal)
2007 ACC Tournament: 1-2
ACC Championships: 7 (1985-86-88-90-91-92-93)
NCAA Tournament Record: 5-47
College World Series Records: 4-5
Head Coach: Danny Hall (15th year)
Record at Georgia Tech: 611-273 (691), 15th year
Career Record: 819-390 (.677), 15th year
Assistant Coach/Pitching: Tom Kinkelaar (4th year/1st as Asst. Coach)
Assistant Coach/Inning: Bryan Prince (1st year)
Volunteer Coach: Matt White (1st year)
President: Dr. G. Wayne Clough
Director of Athletics: Dan Radakovich
Faculty Representative: Dr. Daniel Schrage
Media Information

SID Office
The SID office is located on the first floor of the Arthur B. Edge Athletics Center, on the corner of Techwood Drive and Bobby Dodd Way. The mailing address is: Sports Information Department, Georgia Tech Athletic Association, 150 Bobby Dodd Way, N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30313-0455. Phone: (404) 894-5445.

Media Services
Additional information, news releases, up-to-date statistics and photos are available to accredited members of the media upon request.
Baseball releases will be available on a bi-weekly basis throughout the season, including statistics and occasional feature stories. Fast and easy access to this information can be achieved by accessing the official Georgia Tech athletics website, www.ramblinwreck.com. The Tech sports information office will e-mail weekly releases to members of the media on a bi-weekly basis. No releases will be sent via the U.S. Mail.

Interview Policy
Players are available to the media before or after practice, or by appointment arranged through the assistant director of communications Cheryl Watts.
During the season, the best time to reach head coach Danny Hall in his office is Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Members of the media wishing to talk with him during that time can call his office directly at (404) 894-5471. Interviews with Coach Hall while the team is on the road should be arranged through the sports information office and Cheryl Watts. The team’s travel headquarters are listed on the previous page.

Russ Chandler Stadium
Georgia Tech’s home field is located on the corner of Fowler Street and Fifth Street, with the main entrance on Fifth Street.

To enter campus from the East, take Fifth Street off of Spring Street or take North Avenue to Techwood Drive to Fifth Street. From the West, take Northside Drive to Hemphill to Ferst Drive, following Ferst to the stadium. There is no provision for press parking at Chandler Stadium. The best places to park, however, are along Fowler Street or in the Peters Parking deck, which is one block south of the stadium. For more information on media parking, contact Cheryl Watts one week in advance.

The Press Box
The Chandler Stadium press box is for working members of the media only. The press box is located atop the grandstand behind home plate and includes space for working members of the press, official and visiting scorers, public address announcer and scoreboard operator. Also located on the press level are two radio booths, a television booth, and eight luxury suites.

Press Credentials
Press credentials will be issued to members of the working media only. Children and other non-workers will not be allowed. Requests for credentials should be made to Cheryl Watts in the Tech sports information office at least one day in advance of each home series. Credentials will be left at the ticket booth at the third base entrance gate to Chandler Stadium or may be picked up from the Sports Information Office one day in advance.

Photographers
Press credentials are required for all photographers and television media. Photo wells are located at the far end of each dugout, and have space for both still and video cameras. Photographers are also permitted to shoot from the press box level. Photographers are not permitted on the field during play at any time. Photographers may move from one photo well to the other by exiting the dugouts and walking along the concourse behind home plate.

Telephone Services
Press credentials are required for all photographers and television media. Each media floor is equipped with two courtesy standard phone lines, use of which will be granted on a reciprocal basis. Visiting radio crews needing additional service should call BellSouth at (800) 356-3093, using assistant director of communications Cheryl Watts as the local contact.

Press Box Services
Updated cumulative statistics, game notes, scorecards and team rosters will be available in the press box prior to each home game. A final box score and play-by-play will be distributed at the conclusion of each game.
An official scorer is assigned to all home games, and baseball SID Cheryl Watts will keep the media informed of all scoring decisions, noteworthy facts and records.
A wireless network router is available for use for all working members of the press box.

Post Game Interviews
Head coach Danny Hall is available to meet any working members of the press immediately following the game on the field or in his Chandler Stadium office. Due to space limitations in the locker room, media are asked to conduct player interviews on the field. Baseball SID Cheryl Watts will be available to coordinate all interview requests.
Interviews with visiting team members can be done on the field, subject to policy of the visiting team’s sports information representative.

Tech on the Web
The Georgia Tech Athletic Association has its own official Internet website, www.ramblinwreck.com.
Georgia Tech’s baseball weekly releases, video footage, results, game stories, statistics and box scores are posted on the website, which also includes biographies on players and coaches and some of the same historical information contained in this guide. Game notes in PDF format will be posted on the website throughout the season.
When possible, live in-game statistics will be available on Tech’s website.
Live video broadcasts for many of the Yellow Jackets’ home games can also be found at Ramblinwreck.com or by visiting Georgia Tech’s ACC Select page directly at www.gatechplayonsports.tv.
Radio Coverage

WREK-FM (91.1), Georgia Tech’s 40,000-watt student station, will be the primary carrier of Georgia Tech baseball once again this season, broadcasting Tech games for the 25th consecutive year. Tech students head up the station’s broadcast crew. For the first time in history, all games not broadcast on 790 The Zone and/or conflicting with previously-scheduled men’s or women’s basketball games will be aired on WREK Radio.

In addition, all games carried on the radio can be accessed via the internet at WREK’s world wide web site: www.wrek.com.

Television Coverage

Georgia Tech’s baseball team is scheduled to appear on television at least once this spring, on the Atlantic Coast Conference regional television game of the week.

Tech will be part of the Atlantic Coast Conference’s Saturday “ACC Game of the Week” package for its April 26 game against Wake Forest at Russ Chandler Stadium. The ACC package appears Saturdays at 1 p.m. on FSN South, with the Comcast Network, the ACC package appears Saturdays at 1 p.m. on FSN South, with the ACC network appearing on television at least once this season.

The ACC Regional Network (Fox Sports Network) will carry all ACC Baseball Tournament games in Jacksonville, Fla., while ESPN and ESPNU will telecast all games of the College World Series in Omaha, Neb. ESPN and ESPNU will also televise all eight NCAA Super Regionals for the fifth consecutive year.

Consult the Georgia Tech baseball schedule on the Yellow Jackets’ official website, www.ramblinwreck.com, for more specific dates and times, as they are announced.
## 2008 Georgia Tech Baseball Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pos.</th>
<th>B-T</th>
<th>Ht.</th>
<th>Wt.</th>
<th>Cl.</th>
<th>D.O.B.</th>
<th>Hometown (High School/College)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jesse Dubberly</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>R-R</td>
<td>6-1</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>Sr.</td>
<td>4-7-86</td>
<td>Norcross, Ga. (Norcross)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ryan Tinkoff*</td>
<td>IF</td>
<td>S-R</td>
<td>5-11</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>So.-R</td>
<td>8-29-87</td>
<td>Alpharetta, Ga. (Centennial)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Cole Leonida</td>
<td>C/1B</td>
<td>R-R</td>
<td>6-3</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>fr.</td>
<td>12-25-88</td>
<td>Aurora, Colo. (Grandview)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Jeff Rowland</td>
<td>OF</td>
<td>L-L</td>
<td>5-10</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>fr.</td>
<td>4-1-88</td>
<td>Augusta, Ga. (Greenbrier)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Jeff Ussey*</td>
<td>IF</td>
<td>S-R</td>
<td>6-3</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>So.</td>
<td>2-9-87</td>
<td>Hilton Head, S.C. (Heritage Academy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Chris House**</td>
<td>OF</td>
<td>R-R</td>
<td>6-0</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
<td>5-15-87</td>
<td>Marietta, Ga. (Pepsi)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Curtis Dupart*</td>
<td>OF</td>
<td>R-R</td>
<td>6-3</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>So.</td>
<td>9-4-87</td>
<td>Woodinville, Wash. (Woodinville)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Thomas Nichols</td>
<td>IF</td>
<td>L-L</td>
<td>6-1</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>fr.</td>
<td>2-9-89</td>
<td>Leesburg, Ga. (Lee Co.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Loyall Gause</td>
<td>OF</td>
<td>S-R</td>
<td>5-10</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>Sr.</td>
<td>11-22-85</td>
<td>Spring, Tex. (Spring)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Jason Garofalo*</td>
<td>2B</td>
<td>R-R</td>
<td>5-8</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>So.</td>
<td>6-24-88</td>
<td>Alpharetta, Ga. (Marist)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Patrick Long*</td>
<td>IF</td>
<td>L-R</td>
<td>6-0</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>So.</td>
<td>2-9-88</td>
<td>Mechanicsville, Va. (Hanover)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Brad Feltes***</td>
<td>IF</td>
<td>R-R</td>
<td>6-1</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>Sr.</td>
<td>8-9-85</td>
<td>Alpharetta, Ga. (Chattahoochee)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>David Duncan**</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>L-L</td>
<td>6-8</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
<td>6-1-86</td>
<td>New Richmond, Ohio (New Richmond)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Chase Burnette</td>
<td>OF</td>
<td>L-L</td>
<td>6-2</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>fr.</td>
<td>5-20-88</td>
<td>Buford, Ga. (Buford)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Tony Plagman*</td>
<td>1B-OF</td>
<td>L-L</td>
<td>6-2</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>So.</td>
<td>8-14-87</td>
<td>Alpharetta, Ga. (Wesleyan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Jay Dantzler*</td>
<td>OF</td>
<td>R-R</td>
<td>6-0</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>So.-R</td>
<td>2-12-87</td>
<td>Alpharetta, Ga. (Chattahoochee)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Matt Simonds</td>
<td>IF</td>
<td>R-R</td>
<td>6-1</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>fr.</td>
<td>8-10-88</td>
<td>Atlanta, Ga. (Pace Academy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Chris Hicks**</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>R-R</td>
<td>6-3</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
<td>2-17-87</td>
<td>Alpharetta, Ga. (Milton)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Deck McGuire</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>R-R</td>
<td>6-6</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>fr.</td>
<td>6-23-89</td>
<td>Richmond, Va. (Deep Run)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Andrew Robinson*</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>R-R</td>
<td>6-1</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>So.</td>
<td>2-13-88</td>
<td>Senoia, Ga. (Starr's Mill)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Brandon Cumpton</td>
<td>P/IF</td>
<td>R-R</td>
<td>6-2</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>fr.</td>
<td>11-16-88</td>
<td>Evans, Ga. (Greenbrier)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Jason Haniger**</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>R-R</td>
<td>6-2</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
<td>6-10-87</td>
<td>Santa Clara, Calif. (Archbishop Mitty)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Zach Von Tersch*</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>R-R</td>
<td>6-5</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>So.</td>
<td>4-22-88</td>
<td>Cedar Falls, Iowa (Cedar Falls)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Charlie Blackmon</td>
<td>OF/P</td>
<td>L-L</td>
<td>6-3</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>Sr.</td>
<td>7-1-86</td>
<td>Suwanee, Ga. (North Gwinnett HS/Young Harris JC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Derek Dietrich</td>
<td>SS/P</td>
<td>L-R</td>
<td>6-1</td>
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<td>fr.</td>
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<td>Jr.</td>
<td>5-21-86</td>
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<td>182</td>
<td>So.-R</td>
<td>9-22-86</td>
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**Pronunciation Guide**

- Curtis Dupart ........................................ DEW-part
- Brad Feltes ........................................... FELT-is
- Loyall Gause ......................................... GAUZE
- Jason Haniger ......................................... HAN-i-gerr
- Brad Rulon ............................................ ROO-lon

*Denotes number of varsity letters earned; R-Denotes player has been red-shirted

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**Georgia Tech Roster by State**

- Georgia 23
- Ohio 2
- Virginia 2
- California 1
- Colorado 1
- Iowa 1
- Maryland 1
- South Carolina 1
- Texas 1
- Washington 1

**Georgia Tech Roster by Class**

- Seniors 5
- Juniors 7
- Sophomores 11
- Freshmen 11
- Draft eligible 16

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**Head Coach:**

Danny Hall (Miami, Ohio, 1977), 15th year

**Associate Head Coach/Pitching Coach:**

Tom Kinckelbaar (Miami, Ohio, 1977), 1st year

**Assistant Coach/Recruiting Coordinator:**

Bryan Prince (Georgia Tech, 2005), 1st year

**Volunteer Coach:**

Matt White, 1st year

**Director of Baseball Operations:**

Nick Scherer, 1st year

**Athletic Trainer:**

Walter Smith (Morris Brown, 1972)

**Strength & Conditioning:**

Steve Tamborra

**Student Manager:**

Josh Smith, Miles Costello
I honestly feel like all his pitches are better this year than No. 1 starter and that competitiveness is one of his strengths. There were several Friday nights when we didn’t have our biggest value is to this veteran pitching staff.

“We also have guys like (Chris) Hicks and (Brad) Rulon that have thrown a lot in our bullpen, and even Andrew Robinson, returning in 2008. So I think our pitching is in a place that it needs to be. If you look at our position players being so, for the most part, inexperienced, our pitching is going to have to carry us early on until some of these young guys can get up to speed.”

You’ve touched on the importance of getting David Duncan and Eddie Burns back, but where do you think their biggest value is to this veteran pitching staff.

“Initially we want him to set Chris Hicks up, as that is the role that he’s been in the last couple years. We’ll expect him to start out in that role, but I could see him closing some games here and there. I’d love to be able to hand him the ball in the 7th or 8th inning and then get it to Hicks in the 9th. He’s pitched a lot of innings for us and been in a lot of big games. He’s a senior now and he wants to go out of here having a great year, and I expect him too.”

Zach Von Tersch had an excellent summer in the Northwoods League and really made a push for that third position in the weekend starting location. How much has he improved since his arrival a year ago, and what have we not seen from him yet?

“Zach had a great summer, and that was really what he needed. He needed to go up there and throw a lot of innings. He did that, had several starts and made the all-star team. More than anything he has become a more confident pitcher. Last year I think he came in not knowing if he belonged here, but I think now he has seen the light and understands that he can be and is just about as good as anybody in this league. He is a very talented guy, a great student, and I expect for him to have a big year.

“Consistency (has been where he’s improved the most). Last year he showed flashes of having a plus fastball, but now I think he is more confident in all of his pitches and more confident in his consistency. He would show flashes last year and then might have a bad inning which would make it look like he didn’t pitch that well. But it was usually one pitch, one inning or one batter that didn’t go well for him, and he let it affect him. He’s a lot more confident guy entering this season.”

Another pitcher that really defined himself this summer was junior Chris Hicks, one of the top closers in the Cape Cod League in 2007. Do you see him in the same role for the Yellow Jackets in 2008, and what is it that makes him so successful in that role?

“We are going to make him our closer. He relishes having the ball in his hands late in the game with the lead and really started to come on for us in the last month of the season last year. He got a lot more competitive (at the end of the 2007 season) and then had a great summer in the Cape, closing for Wareham. He also had a great fall, he has a great attitude, and he is one of the best athletes on our team. I am anxious to see him in (the closer) role, and I know that he has embraced it already.

“He has a great arm, but he is also a great athlete, (both of which makes him a successful closer). You take a guy like that who is blessed with a good arm and is a great athlete on top of that, and a lot of good things can happen.”

Brad Rulon is returning for his senior year and already ranks as one of Georgia Tech’s all-time leaders in games played. Will he still be your primary setup guy to get to Hicks, or could we also see him finishing out games this year?

“Initially we want him to set Chris Hicks up, as that is the role that he’s been in the last couple years. We’ll expect him to start out in that role, but I could see him closing some games here and there. I’d love to be able to hand him the ball in the 7th or 8th inning and then get it to Hicks in the 9th. He’s pitched a lot of innings for us and been in a lot of big games. He’s a senior now and he wants to go out of here having a great year, and I expect him too.”
Elliot Ojawa and Michael Hutts are your returning experienced southpaws in the bullpen but you also added two left-handers in freshmen Taylor Wood and Zach Brewster. Wood is the only one of the two freshmen with experience after Brewster missed the fall with injury, but talk about how you see each of the four of them factoring in this season.

“Michael Hutts played in the Northwoods League last summer and had a good summer, pitching a lot of innings. I see him being a long reliever guy. He has a very good changeup and sometimes a left-hander with a good changeup has a hard time getting (people) out. Coach Kinkelaar has worked a lot on his breaking ball so we can use that more also. I kind of see Michael as being a long reliever, a one-time through the order guy to get us some outs in the middle of the game.

Elliot had some back surgery and didn’t pitch at all this fall, so we’ll probably have to ease him back into throwing. Early in the year I don’t know how valuable he will be (because of the surgery). He’s a lot like Michael in that he doesn’t throw extremely hard, but one time through the order he can come in and go out.

“Wood is the only one of the two freshmen with experience after Brewster missed the fall with injury, but talk about how you see each of the four of them factoring in this season.

“Taylor Woods is a guy we think could be a midweek starter for us. He’ll also be a midweek starter, and a key guy for Hicks. Andrew was also up in the Northwoods League. He pitched very well last summer, and I could see him becoming a midweek starter, but initially he’ll be a setup guy in our bullpen.

Brandon Cumpton is a great player and certainly an outstanding pitcher. He’ll start out as a Tuesday/Wednesday starter for us in midweek games. He has very good stuff with three quality pitches that he can throw for strikes. I think a lot of our season will depend on how the midweek starters do. With us playing five games a week, a lot of times those midweek starters are going to be critical, not only for us but for all the teams in college baseball.

“With Deck McGuire, I wouldn’t say he was a surprise, but he might be a sleeper. He was not a high profile guy coming in here, but he’s a big guy (6-6). He has great command of everything he’s doing. He threw the ball extremely well this fall; he has a great fastball, a good breaking ball, a good changeup, and he really impressed me this fall with being a guy that’s more mature than a (normal) 18-year-old freshman pitcher. He’ll also be a midweek starter, and a key guy for us.

“Kevin Jacob kind of throws at an odd angle but pitched extremely well this fall. He is very competitive, has good stuff, and has a very good arm. We’re excited about him. I can see him being a set-up guy in our bullpen, a long relief guy, or a midweek starter for us.”

On the receiving end of this talented pitching staff will be a list of relative unknowns with the loss of All-American catcher Matt Wieters. Jason Haniger picked up some key innings for the squad a year ago and is the only player returning at the position after Nick Scherer graduated and was named your director of operations. Before we go into detail about the other catchers on the staff, talk about his role on the team this season.

“Jason Haniger, number one, is one of the hardest workers that we have on our team. His work ethic has caught the attention of our coaching staff and caught the attention of our players, so while he might be inexperienced in college baseball I think he’ll have a great year just because of his make up and how hard he works. He did get some playing time late in the year and swung the bat well. He played in the Northwoods League and played very well up there, and I think he’ll be a pleasant surprise for everybody. I do think that a critical thing for us is to get a good handle on our catching early on because we lost Matt Wieters, who is hard to replace.”

Your philosophy has always been to have at least two catchers that can be used interchangeably throughout the season, who also has come on that can spell Haniger in 2008.”

“Cale Leonard. We recruited Cale out of Colorado last year, and I think he’s going to be a very, very good player for us. (He is) a lot like Haniger in that he works extremely hard and takes everything very serious. His dad was a college baseball player so he comes from good genes. He really likes the game and I think he’s a guy that, since we are playing five games a week, is probably going to catch two (games) a week and Jason will catch three. We need both of those guys to push each other and both of those guys to settle in and do a good job for us.

“Jesse Dubberly is our third guy. Jesse has had a lot of different roles (since he arrived). He’s been a bullpen catcher for us, but this year he has kind of jumped up to our number three guy. We also caught Patrick Long some in the fall, but it would be a long shot to get him ready to catch. He could go back there if we need somebody though.”

**PITCHERS**

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<th>Pitchers</th>
<th>L/R</th>
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Long was the freshman that made the most impact in 2007, whether it was playing third base, second base, or even shortstop when Michael Fisher was injured. Aside from being used as the 3rd catcher in your system, where do you see him playing in 2008 and what are you expecting, offensively, from him in his sophomore season?

“Patrick is very versatile. When we recruited him we thought he’d play third and second, but then he ended up playing some shortstop for us too and played very well there. He was one of those sophomores we need to step up offensively and just have a much more productive year with the bat.”

“We need a big year from him offensively. He showed flashes of it last year, and I think he’s better now than he was at any point last year. But he’s one of those sophomores we need to step up offensively and just have a much more productive year with the bat.”

“Michael Fisher was injured. We got a glimpse of Derek (in the opening week of individual workouts, and he’s been given a clean bill of health. He is a very talented guy that has good hands and a great arm and he’s got major power at the plate. He is a freshman, and there is a learning curve you have to go through at this level. We’re counting on him to be our shortstop, and it is up to him to see how he settles in to playing that position defensively.”

There are high hopes for freshman shortstop Derek Dietrich, a player in which few have really seen because he missed the fall campaign with an injury. What are his greatest assets as a player, and will he be ready to step into that starting role by opening day?

“Tinkoff is more of a utility infielder. He is a switch-hitter, and a guy that you could probably put at shortstop or second base and know that, defensively, he’s going to do a good job for you. I think he is a very valuable defensive player.”

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“Tinkoff is more of a utility infielder. He is a switch-hitter, and a guy that you could probably put at shortstop or second base and know that, defensively, he’s going to do a good job for you. I think he is a very valuable defensive player.”
Luke Murton is a player that has the potential to drive the ball out of the park on every swing, yet struggled in 2007. What adjustments has he made since the end of last season, and what do the Jackets need from him in 2008 to be successful?

“The biggest thing that Luke did is he put last season behind him. He has always been a hard worker, so that has never been a problem. He has forgotten about last season, and he is much more relaxed, much more focused, and in a better place. He feels a lot better about himself and where he’s headed and I think he knows how to get there. I fully expect Luke to have a great year for us. He swung the bat extremely well in the fall. He has made a lot of adjustments, as any hitter has to do from year to year to keep trying to get better, and he is a lot better than he was at any time last year. He learned from last year and I think he’s planning to use his failures from last year as motivation to have a great year this year. I think he’ll have a tremendous year for us.”

Murton was a guy that could play both first base and in the outfield because of his arm. With the influx of talented freshmen in the outfield as well as the return of Tony Plagman at first base, where does that leave him?

“He’s probably going to play both spots. He’ll play first, he’ll play some in the outfield, and he’ll DH some. A lot depends on some of the other outfielders. He could end up playing more first base this year than he did last year, but that’s a nice problem to have. It will work itself out, but we’re going to have to play some to sort that one out.”

When he does play first base, does Tony Plagman then become a viable option as a left-handed DH?

“Definitely. The biggest thing about Tony is that he did step in there last year and have a nice year as a freshman. He is a great defensive first baseman and saved a lot of errors because he’s very good around the bag, picking balls out of the dirt. He has to step up offensively though. You play a guy at first base and you kind of want that guy to do some damage, whether it be an RBI machine or hit for a good average or hopefully hit the ball out of the ballpark. There will be a lot greater emphasis placed on Tony’s bat this year and how well he’s swinging it to dictate how much playing time he’s going to get.”

Another name that has been mentioned in the DH role is that of pitcher-turned-hitter Charlie Blackmon, very similar to the emergence of another pitcher-turned-outfielder Jeff Kindel of two years ago. Talk about what you’ve seen from him since the beginning of the fall and where else we could see Blackmon play this season.

“If he can turn out to be as good as Kindel I’ll take that right now. I do think he is Kindel-like in that he can really swing the bat. He has a quick bat and he is a tremendous athlete. He is the best athlete we have on our team - he is the fastest runner, he’s got the highest vertical jump, etc. Charlie’s going to play in our outfield somewhere. He is going to DH. He’s going to somehow be in the mix for us. He had a great year in the Texas League (collegiate league) swinging the bat last summer. He swung the bat extremely well for us in the fall and has really been a great surprise for us as a hitter.

Aside from Murton, you have two other returnees in the outfield in junior Chris House and sophomore Curtis Dupart. With all three outfield positions really up for grabs, where have they spent the most time in the fall and early part of the spring and what are the expectations for these two in 2008?
"Chris House can play all three outfield positions. If we started today he’d probably be in left field. He has really matured as a player. He is a lot stronger, he is more confident, and I think the playing that he got last year and then playing all summer in the Northwoods League has really helped him with his confidence. I tell everybody Chris House is a boy scout – he does everything the right way, he knows how to play, and he knows how to compete. He will be a valuable member of our outfield this year.

"Dupart might be the best defensive outfielder we’ve ever had here. He can go get balls like nobody I’ve ever seen. He is a great thrower, and he gets rid of the ball very quickly. Curtis’s whole key is how much he hits. I think he’s got tremendous potential as an offensive player, but he hasn’t been able to do it on a consistent basis yet. We have seen flashes of it, and if he ever hits (consistently) he’ll be a first round pick because he has tremendous instincts as a baseball player. He is a guy that we’d love to put him in as pitching coach because we know each other really well and he knows what I like and he knows how I am.”

Other names that can be thrown into the outfield mix are that of freshmen Jeff Rowland, another Danny Payne throw-back that is great defensively and has excellent speed, and Chase Burnette, from just north of Atlanta, as well as redshirt sophomore Jay Dantzler. Will we see much of them this season with so many talented returnees in the outfield?

"Jeff Rowland might be the best hitter we have on our team right now. We are going to see a lot of him. He can be a very good lead-off hitter because he has a great eye at the plate. He is good at stealing bases, and he is a lot like Danny Payne. He is going to be a guy that will always hit for average, he’s always going to steal bases, he’s going to walk, and he’s going to do a lot of little things that lead to winning games. I think Jeff Rowland’s going to be in the mix as a center fielder, if not the starting center fielder, when we start playing.

"Jay Dantzler had another great fall campaign. He is a lot like Curtis - he has to hit to get in the lineup, but there’s not a better guy than Jay Dantzler. He is a great student, a hard worker, and he is a guy that everybody would love to see do well. He just has to hit on a consistent basis to get in the lineup. He can play all three outfield positions, he’s one of the best runners we have on our team, he can steal bases - he can do a lot of things if he becomes consistent hitting-wise.

"Chase Burnette is a very raw athlete from Buford. He played all three sports there, which I like. He’s got a great body, he’s got great power, and he had a good fall for us. He is one of those guys that seemed like he got a hit every time he played. He is going to push somebody because he’s a good player. Rowland and Burnette are going to push the Housas and Duparts, and some of those guys that got in the lineup last year, for playing time this season.”

Perhaps your biggest adjustment will be working with a completely new staff in 2008. How has it been, so far, working with former teammate Tom Kinkelaar, who is serving as your pitching coach this season?

“It’s been great. When (former associate head coach) Bobby Moranda got the head coaching job at Western Carolina, it didn’t take too long to figure out that our pitchers wanted Coach Kinkelaar to be their pitching coach. He relates extremely well with our pitchers. He is very knowledgeable. He may not have been in college coaching that many years, but he’s been a coach (at some sort) since graduating from Miami, Ohio. He knows how to coach, and he knows how to relate to young people. It’s been a very easy transition for me to put him in as pitching coach because we know each other so well and he knows what I like and he knows how I am.”

You have also hired another former player in Bryan Prince, who took a road similar to that of another former player and assistant coach of yours, Scott Stricklin, to get back to Atlanta. What has he brought to this team in the short time that he’s been back?

“To get Bryan Prince back here is great for our program because he played here, he graduated from here and his wife graduated from here – so there isn’t a better guy to sell our program and sell the value of getting an education at Georgia Tech than Bryan. He was a great player that played on great teams here, and because he is young he relates extremely well with our hitters. He did a great job with those guys in the fall and, if nothing else, began making them more confident and helped them have fun again.”
Significant alumni from the Georgia Tech baseball program have gone on to have successful careers in professional baseball. Some notable players include Mark Teixeira, Kris Wilson, and Marlon Byrd, among others. These alumni have contributed to various teams in the Major League Baseball (MLB) league, demonstrating the program's legacy and impact on the sport. The Georgia Tech baseball team has a rich history of excellence, with consistently high team batting averages and record-breaking offensive performances. The team's success is not only a testament to the talent within its ranks but also to the dedication and hard work of its players, coaches, and support staff. The program continues to produce top-tier talent that excels both on and off the field, making it a proud tradition in collegiate baseball.
Draft Dodgers

Eight Georgia Tech players have previously been drafted 10 times by major league teams. The highest concentration of drafted players ever on one Yellow Jacket team occurred in 2000 and 2003. Those teams featured 11 players previously drafted.


All-Americas

Georgia Tech has had 37 different players earn All-America honors in its storied history, 32 of them earning the distinction since 1985. Jason Varitek, who was a consensus first-team choice in 1992, 1993 and 1994, is the most decorated of the group.


All-Time Greatest

As if it wasn’t enough that catcher Jason Varitek became a consensus All-America for the third time in 1994, the Longwood, Fla. native also earned National Player of the Year honors from three organizations, Baseball America, the American Baseball Coaches Association (Dick Howser Trophy), and the National Collegiate Baseball Writers (Smith Award).

Baseball America magazine also named Varitek to its all-time college team. In November of 1994, Varitek also received amateur baseball’s greatest honor, the Golden Spikes Award. He was the first Georgia Tech Baseball player ever to receive any of those national honors.

Tech also recognized him by retiring his No. 33 jersey, making him the first and only Tech baseball player to be so honored.

Leading Georgia

Georgia Tech went 5-6 against teams from the state of Georgia in 2007. Since 1999, the Yellow Jackets own a 77-26 (748) record against in-state foes. In 14 years under head coach Danny Hall, Tech is 120-43 (736) against teams from Georgia.

Jim Luck

Luck enjoyed the longest tenure of any Tech baseball coach, posting a 320-280-4 (533) record in 20 seasons from 1962-81. In 1972, he was inducted into the Georgia Tech Hall of Fame. His No. 44 was, until 1994, the only baseball jersey to be retired at Georgia Tech. As assistant football coach and assistant athletic director, as well as head baseball coach, Luck was killed in an automobile accident in 1986.
Jim Morris

Over his 12-year career on the flats, Morris led the Yellow Jackets to 504 victories against 244 losses, four Atlantic Conference championships (1985-88), and nine consecutive NCAA regional berths. He left the school the all-time winningest coach at Georgia Tech.

Along the way, he introduced night baseball to the Tech campus, attracted the donations to build Russ Chandler Stadium and laid the groundwork for the fun, family-oriented atmosphere that Tech fans and students enjoy today.

Now in his 14th season as head coach at Miami, Morris was inducted into the Georgia Tech Athletic Hall of Fame in 1999.

The Hall Era at Georgia Tech

Georgia Tech is 611-273 in 14 seasons under head coach Danny Hall, a winning percentage of .691 and an average of 43.6 wins per year. Hall became Tech’s winningest coach on Mar. 27, 2005 in an 11-10 win at Miami.


Hall was named ACC Coach of the Year and also earned National Coach of the Year honors by The Sporting News in 1997. He earned his second and third ACC Coach of the Year awards after leading Tech to the ACC Regular Season and Tournament championships in both 2000 and 2005. Tech’s record in ACC games under Hall is 226-123 (.648).

Along the way, 72 of his players at Tech have gone on to play professional baseball, 27 have earned All-America honors and 67 have made the All-ACC team. One hundred and four have made the ACC Academic Honor Roll and 10 have made the GTE/CoSIDA Academic All-America or All-District teams.

What If?

Following is a list of baseball players who actually signed letters of intent with Georgia Tech out of high school, but instead signed professional contracts with major league organizations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Signed</th>
<th>Drafted by (Round)</th>
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*Not the same Chris Myers who pitched for Tech from 1991-94; +Signed football letter-of-intent with Tech; "Signed basketball" letter-of-intent with Tech; #Secondary phase of June draft

YEAR  RECORD  ACC  NOTES
1994  50-17  16-8  NCAA Midwest Regional champs, CWS Runner-Up
1995  38-22  16-8  NCAA Midwest Regional
1996  46-24  13-11  NCAA South II Regional
1997  46-15  19-4  NCAA Midwest Regional, ACC Reg. Season Champs
1998  41-22  18-9  NCAA Midwest Regional
1999  38-20  12-12  —
2000  50-16  18-6  NCAA Super Regional, ACC Reg. Season & Tour. Champs
2001  41-20  13-11  NCAA Athens Regional
2002  52-16  14-9  NCAA Super Regional, CWS 5th place
2003  44-18  17-7  NCAA Atlanta Regional, ACC Champions
2004  44-21  18-5  NCAA Super Regional, ACC Reg. Season Champs
2005  45-19  22-8  NCAA Super Regional, ACC Reg. Season & Tour. Champs
2006  50-18  19-11  NCAA Atlanta Super Regional Champions, CWS 7th place
2007  32-25  15-14  —
MOST VALUABLE PLAYER for 2007

Presented by Duane Hoover

HOOVER ENTERPRISES

MATT WIETERS
Most Valuable Player 2007