Ten things to do as a Tech fan

By Patrick O'Neal
Sports Editor

As if the "99 Things to Do Before You Graduate" aren’t enough, here are ten things every fan should do to support their teams, and have a blast at the same time.

1. Buy one of those crazy yellow wigs. They’re especially great to attract the TV cameras to get on the jumbotron or to be televised on ESPN, and no chest painting would be complete without one.

2. See at least one game of every sport. As sports editor, I’ve had to go (often alone) to many of the non-money sports on campus. And let me tell you the revelation: They’re a lot of fun, and found myself going back to watch them even when I didn’t have to write a story.

When there are small crowds, you’re closer to the action and can hear the conversations of the coaches, the players and the refs. And speaking of refs...

3. Learn the first names of refs and call them out by name. This works especially well at those low-attendance games or when done en masse.

4. Camp out for tickets. There soon will be a day when all ticketing will be done online, so before that happens give the tents one final use. The memories will last forever.

5. Road trip, road trip, road trip. Sure it’s No. 57 on that other list, but it’s so important that it should be mentioned twice. There’s no better way to become close with four (or more) friends.

Want an extra challenge? How bout the away basketball game at Michigan St. on Wednesday, Nov. 30. If you drive there and back without missing a class, I’ll take you out to dinner.

6. Catch a foul ball bare-handed. This requires going to a lot of baseball and softball games. Bring some friends along for witnesses.

7. Watch cricket on TV or at the SAC fields. Bonus points if you join in on a game. Sure it isn’t a varsity sport, but cricket is one of the more amusing things on campus.

8. Talk with an athlete on a Stinger about something other than sports. Some are easier to recognize than others. They spend enough time worrying about sports already. Remember they’re students as well as athletes.

9. Pre-game (legally). Start early. Just be responsible, and have a friend to remind you of everything that you did.

10. Write at least one sports article for the ‘Nique. Just a little shameless self-promotion. It looks good on your resume, it’s fun and all you have to do is show up to a meet ing. (Plus there’s free pizza.)

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Introduction
The Technique’s Sports section provides in-depth reporting on all of Tech’s varsity sports, as well as coverage of club and intramural athletic events. The section strives to objectively report on Tech sports while offering a fun edge. It also seeks to provide coverage in a unique format, one that provides the features, insights and analysis of a sports magazine especially geared toward student readers. For more information contact the sports editor, Patrick O’Neal, at sports@technique.gatech.edu.

Cover photo
Sophomore middle hitter Nikki Kaminskas goes up for the spike in a spring match. Kaminskas will be counted on to play a large role for a young Tech squad this year.

The volleyball team has seen incredible success and tremendous fan support over the past few years and has a highly-touted freshman class for the fall.

Photo by Derrick Ma.
Volleyball looks to defend ACC title with fresh faces

By Patrick OdNeal
Sports Editor

For the past few years, Tech volleyball has been building an elite national program. Last season they took first in the ACC, with a perfect 16-0 conference record.

The Jackets advanced to the Sweet Sixteen of the NCAA tournament for the second time in a row while gaining their fifth consecutive tournament berth last season.

This season the Jackets will depend on a handful of new recruits to continue the team’s success.

The loss of All-Americans Lauren Sauer and Lynette Moster certainly has left a hole to be filled, but a recruiting class ranked fourth best in the nation by Volleyball magazine should be able to fill the void.

That’s where Head Coach Bond Shymansky and his staff take over. Shymansky, in his first year as head coach, has won either the ACC Tournament or the ACC Regular season crown each year, while amassing a 94-17 record. Last year he won the Coach of the Year award for both the ACC, and AVCA East Region.

This pre-season Shymansky and crew have been working on interwining the new players with the four returning starters. “We’ve spent more time working on fundamentals and teaching the younger players, rather than on conditioning,” Shymansky said.

“Many of the players are more athletically gifted (than last year’s seniors). That’s exciting for us in the future, but right now we just need to teach patience and an understanding of the game, something that’s important for the players and the coaches,” he said.

Senior Lindsey Laband returns at setter, after being instrumental in the offense that was ranked first in the nation in kills per game.

Senior Jennifer Randall returns as the libero and defensive specialist. She’s played in every match for the past three years and should have another excellent season as passer to Laband. Freshman Michelle Kandel will also add support in the backcourt.

“We’re pretty excited about the depth of our team, especially in defense and passing, and that’s something that can [help the offense].”

Bond Shymansky
Volleyball Head Coach

Senior Lindsey Laband returns at setter for the Jackets. She is the center of the offense, in addition to being a team leader.
Stay in shape, relax at Campus Recreation Center

By Morgan Wolfe and Melissa Gegenheimer
Contributing Writers

With Britain, Woodruff and a skew of other eateries on and near campus, the freshman fifteen can easily creep up on the unaware. Thankfully, Tech has the ever useful Campus Recreation Center, or CRC for short. Located on west campus, the Olympic quality exercise and recreation facility has everything a freshman would need to ward off that terrible tummy.

Every Tech student should be aware of the competitive and leisurely opportunities that the CRC offers. Formerly known as the Student Athletic Center, or SAC, the CRC now encompasses far more than just athletics. The name change is significant because it emphasizes the availability of activities that will suit students’ varying interests. Although many freshmen may not wander past the captivating, technologically-enhanced cardiovascular equipment and countless weights, some students will desire more than just a typical workout.

Travel up to the fourth floor where you will discover several studios and a game room. Equipped with air hockey, foosball, and ping-pong tables, the game room is available to all Tech students. The versatile studios house the fifty non-credit G.I.T. FIT classes that range from martial arts and self-defense to belly dancing. Aside from these alternate options for working out and relaxing, students can enjoy other nontraditional forms of physical stimulation by utilizing the climbing wall or the fourth floor “arena” used for basketball and indoor hockey. The fourth floor “arena” is separate and is used as such in many campus events like One Night Stand.

For those non-swimmers, the CRC has an array of dry activities ranging from racquetball and squash to basketball and indoor hockey. The fourth floor “arena” is also home to an Olympic size competition pool, a diving well and a hot tub. In an adjacent part of the building is a separate leisure pool complete with a water slide and a mini lazy river. Lanes can be reserved for use, and kickboards and pull buoys are available at no charge.

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First phase of intramurals starts soon

By Patrick Odneal
Sports Editor

Participating in intramural sports offers one of the best ways to have fun and to stay in shape during the college years. Whether you’ve a former high school star or just someone looking to try something new, you’ll find the right balance of competitiveness and camaraderie in Tech intramural sports.

Each semester is divided into two phases of competition, and each phase offers students different sports in which to compete. Phase I of this fall semester features four sports: Flag Football, Sand Volleyball, Ultimate Frisbee and Whiffleball.

The sports for Phase II of this semester are soccer, bowling, volleyball and billiards.

The intramural system is broken down into men’s, women’s, co-rec (featuring both men and women on the same team) and recreational leagues. One school champion will be crowned in each of these categories per sport, with the exception of the recreational league.

Depending on the popularity of the sport, not all sports will field teams in each category. For example, Ultimate Frisbee does not have a co-rec or women’s league while Flag Football does.

Of the four leagues, the men’s league is, not surprisingly, the largest and is therefore broken down into four divisions: Graduate, Fraternity, Housing and Independent.

The teams of each of these men’s divisions play among themselves during the season and have their own playoffs. But, unlike in previous years, the top two teams from each division move on to the School Championship tournament. The eight teams then compete for the title of “School Champion.”

Anyone wanting to enter a team for any Phase I sport should attend the captains meeting Monday, Aug. 29 at 6 p.m. in room 117 of the Flag Building. Late registration for those who miss the meeting is Aug. 31 at 1 p.m. in the Intramural Office in the CRC.

Most games for Phase I of the fall semester begin in the second week of September.

Each team for Phase I costs between $30 and $45, depending on the sport. The fee for sand volleyball is $30, while Whiffleball and Ultimate Frisbee both cost $40 per team. The fee for Flag Football is $45.

To be eligible, students must also have paid the recreational and facility fee. If you’re a full-time student, you’ve probably already paid it even if you didn’t realize it.

Participants are allowed to play in as many sports as fits their schedule, but they cannot play on more than one team per sport, with the exception being that membership on a co-rec team does not make you ineligible to play that same sport in a different division.

For example, one could play Fraternity Flag Football and also Co-Rec Flag Football.

Women are allowed to play on men’s or women’s team (in addition to a co-rec team), but it doesn’t work the other way around for men. Sorry guys, you can’t play on a women’s team.

Students also have the opportunity to be an official for the intramural leagues. All intramural games are refereed by fellow students, and often times aspiring officials use their experience in intramural competition as a springboard for life as an official after Tech.
Introduction

Just eight more days until toe meets leather and the 119th installment of Tech football begins. The Jackets open their season at Auburn, a team that was 13-0 last season and that has a 15-game winning streak.

Tech will play in the newly formed Coastal Division of the ACC, along with Duke, Miami, UNC, Virginia and Virginia Tech.

Outlook: 7 wins-4 losses

This season, Tech will be facing one of the most difficult schedules in its long and illustrious history. The season begins and ends with SEC rivals and totes an ACC schedule in between. Here’s a break down and analysis of the team.

Quarterback Grade: B

Now in his junior season, Reggie Ball must be the upper-class team leader that every successful offense relies on. Ball has the talent and potential to be one of the premiere quarterbacks in college football, but inconsistent play has hampered his career for the past two years. A strong performance against Auburn could set the right tone for what this season will be like for the QB.

After a rough first scrimmage, Ball has performed well in the final two scrimmages and has started to look like the quarterback that has garnered praise during his first two years. A strong arm and his impressive running ability are his main strengths. A solid receiving corps also works in Ball’s favor.

Running Backs Grade: A

The Jackets welcome Oklahoma transfer Tashard Choice to an already loaded backfield. P.J. Daniels is healthy and looks stronger than ever, and the Tech offense is most deep in the backfield. Chris Woods and Rashaun Grant can build on their playing time from last season.

In the past the Jackets have been very successful in the games that Daniels has started, so a healthy starter should be forerunner to overall team success.

Mike Cox and Ajenavi Eziemefe will complement each other as fullbacks. These two will be called upon to clear the way for the tailbacks. Cox and Eziemefe should try to emulate Jimmy Dixon, who graduated last year.

Wide Receivers Grade: B+

Calvin Johnson will be the main receiver, but Damarius Bilbo and redshirt freshman James Johnson will be called on to relieve some of the double coverage that teams will put on Johnson.

Johnson and Bilbo both have looked good in the practices and the three scrimmages. But in the two years since changing from quarterback to wide out, Bilbo has caught just six passes. During the off-season, Bilbo slimmed down, losing 20 pounds, and he gained improved agility as a result.

Pat Clark, Chris Dunlap and Xavier McGuire could all see significant playing time.

Redshirt Juniors Michael Daniels has started, so a healthy starter should be forerunner to overall team success.

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Tight Ends Grade: B

Tech is slightly better off this year than last when it comes to the tight ends, but they still will have major question marks accompanying them. Redshirt Juniors Michael Matthews and George Cooper remain unproven in their ability to catch passes. The loss of Wayne Riles for most of the season will be a big blow to depth.

Freshman Colin Peek can step up judging from his impressive performances in the fall practices. If he continues to show improvement, he could see some significant playing time.

Peek could fill the void in the tight end position by establishing himself as a solid tight end who also has the ability to catch.

2005 Georgia Tech

By Michael
Offensive Line  Grade: C-
The biggest question mark on this year’s team is the offensive line. With Darryl Richard’s knee injury, Man- shield Wroten was sent back to the defensive line. Senior Salih Besticic has been called on to bring depth by learning four of the positions on the line. The only other senior is right tackle Brad Honeycutt.

Kevin Tuminello and Kyle Rhodes both saw significant playing time last season, and Nate McManus appears to be a solid newcomer to the line. Andrew Gardner will learn his position under fire as a red-shirt freshman. LeShawn Newberry has shown that he can add some depth.

However, how will the young unit act in the case of an injury? The line shows promise if they can avoid the injury bug, but if something does happen they may not be able to recover.

Defensive Line  Grade: A-
Despite losing Travis Parker to grades and Darryl Richard to a season-ending knee injury, the Jackets look to have a strong line once again. Eric Henderson will be looking to make an impact in his final year on the flats and will put himself in position for an All America season.

Wrotto has returned to the defensive line and with Joe Anaoi should provide ample reason for the opposition to stay away. Adamm Oliver will be called on to replace Parker after subbing for Henderson at the beginning of last season. Darrell Robertson and freshman standout Michael Johnson are both providing quality depth at defensive end.

Linebackers  Grade: B-
Despite off the field issues with KaMichael Hall and the moving of Chris Reis back to the secondary, a healthy linebacking corps will be one of the best in the ACC. Gary Guyton is challenging Hall for the starting job, but may get the start regardless against Auburn if Hall's off the field issues aren’t resolved. Gerris Wilkinson will be anchoring the defense at middle linebacker with Phillip Wheeler rounding out the unit.

Secondary  Grade: B+
Dawan Landrey and Chris Reis will provide the backbone of the secondary. Reis has made a position change for the second straight season, but will need to adjust back to being a safety. Joe Gaston will provide solid depth for Tenata’s defense. Reuben Houston was suspended from the team pending the resolution of a case in U.S. District Court in Sacramento.

Dennis Davis returns to the sec- ondary after being granted a sixth year by the NCAA. Davis missed most of last year after separating his shoulder twice in the win over Clemson. Kenny Scott will be on the opposite end is an average cover corner. Avery Robertson and Jamal Lewis are both very solid backups when they are needed.

Special Teams  Grade: A
The special teams will be an integral part in the success of Tech this season, and the Jackets appear to be able to win the field position game.

Travis Bell returns as placekicker after a breakout first season. He missed just two kicks last year. Senior Ben Arnold returns as punter, after a 2004 season where he averaged 38.5 yards per punt but downed 20 punts inside the red zone.

Coaching Staff  Grade: B+
Chan Gailey returns for his fourth year as head coach and will be looking to improve on his 21-17 record. With more than 30 years of coaching experience, including 16 years in the NFL, Gailey looks to take Tech to its ninth straight bowl berth. The newest challenge will be trying to win the first-ever ACC championship game.

Patrick Nix is entering his second season as Tech’s offensive coordinator and must be willing to open up the playbook to take advantage of the talent of his players.

Defensive coordinator Jon Tenata has kept the Jackets in almost every game since arriving on the flats, and will continue to do so with one of his most talented defenses yet. The Jackets will need the defense to excel if they are going to win games this year.

Junior quarterback Reggie Ball returns to an experienced backfield. Center Kevin Tuminello will power the middle of the offensive line.
Freshman guide to football bowl games

By Patrick Odean
Sports Editor

The first days of classes for freshmen are all about making sure students have a background knowledge they need for the rest of the semester. Professors, aware that every student comes from a different high school background, teach the basic concepts that to some is an easy review but to others is a call to catch up to pace.

In the same way, every student should have a basic understanding of the bowl Championship Series (BCS). For some it will be a nice review and for others it may be new material.

So what is the BCS? It is a system in NCAA Division I-A football for determining the national champion. Unlike other sports (basketball for example) that have single-elimination tournaments at the end of the season to determine the national champion, the football season consists of 11 regular season games, a season championship game, and then one of many numerous bowl games.

The four BCS bowls (the Rose Bowl, the Nokia Sugar Bowl, the FedEx Orange Bowl and the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl) are considered the "big" bowls, and in fact the national title game rotates among these four BCS bowls. This year the Rose Bowl is the National Championship Game.

What are these "other" bowls? In addition to the BCS bowls there are a couple dozen "minor" bowls, which are each managed by the corporate sponsors. Last season, Tech played in the Champs Sports Bowl, formerly known as the Tangerine Bowl.

A large number of bowls always feature conference match ups. Last year the Champs Sports Bowl saw Tech, an ACC team, down Syracuse, a Big East team, 51-14. This year that same bowl will feature a match up between an ACC team and a Big 10 conference team. And next season a Big 10 team will be featured.

These "other" bowls are not as prestigious as the BCS bowls, but certainly making any bowl, especially year after year, is noteworthy. Tech has played in bowl games for the past eight years.

Why not have a playoff system? All other divisions of college football use playoff systems. But for Division I-A, it all comes down to money, and that isn’t necessarily a bad thing. Bowl games boost local economies at the 28 host sites, while giving national TV exposure to many teams who may have stayed under the spotlight in the regular season. As long as the tickets sell and the TV ratings soar the bowl system will never be changed.

The perks that come along with traveling to a state like Florida over winter break and the hospitality gifts often serve as a nice perk for bench players who never see game action.

What are these changes I’ve heard about with the top 25 polls? This year Associated Press Poll will not be part of the BCS process. The AP has been ranking teams since 1936. The AP poll had used about half the top 25 polls, rather than 20 percent of the ballots, rather than 50 percent with the old AP poll.

In an effort to diminish the effect of pre-season hype, the Harris Interactive College Football Poll. Instead of past coaches and media, the new poll will use former players, current coaches and administrators. The media makeup 20 percent of the ballots, rather than 50 percent with the old AP poll.

The new poll the BCS will use is called the Harris Interactive College Football Poll. Instead of past coaches and media, the new poll will use former players, current coaches and administrators. The media makeup 20 percent of the ballots, rather than 50 percent with the old AP poll.

What does it all mean? An old adage says that if you think you understand quantum physics, you probably don’t. The same can be applied to the BCS. What’s for certain is that at the end of this season, after months of analysis by people and computers, two teams will play each other in the Rose Bowl for the National Championship.
Free tickets one benefit of student life

By Patrick Odneal
Sport Editor

Watching a college game is one of the most thrilling things to do on campus. If you're a sports fan, it should be obvious that seeing the games in person is a whole other dimension from watching them on TV. You'll be at every game, and you might even be one of those guys who paints his chest and wears the crazy wigs.

But if sports aren't really your cup of tea, you really should go to the games anyway, if only to enjoy the fellowship of other students. There's always that group of students who couldn't care less about what's going on in the game but who have a blast anyway. They enjoy hanging out with friends and meeting new ones. After all, without college sports, there'd only be studying.

Here's the best part: Admission to all Tech games on campus is free. The cost is covered by the athletic fee you pay at the beginning of the year, so you don't have to pay anything more to attend games.

So to go check out the game of your choice, here's what you need to know about getting your free tickets.

In order to get your free tickets for football games you must first go to the Georgia Tech Athletic Association (GTAA) Ticket Office (at the bottom of Freshman Hill) with your own BuzzCard and pick up season coupons. These coupons aren't your actual tickets to the game, but are what will be exchanged throughout the season for the actual ticket. Each Monday before the home game, you can go back to the ticket office and exchange that week's coupon for the ticket.

Students who want to go in groups are allowed to turn in multiple coupons to get block seating. Check out the student ticketing procedure on www.ramblinwreck.com for more info.

The problem with the coupon system is that while every student is eligible to get a coupon, not every student will be given a ticket. For most games this isn't a problem, but for games like UGA, it can be. As a result, students face long lines and perhaps even camping out overnight in order to get tickets to the biggest games of the year.

After the past two years of success, tickets to the basketball games have become more difficult to get. The powers that be understand this problem and may reveal a new system come basketball season. So keep your eyes and ears open.

Students who want a guaranteed seat to basketball and football games should consider becoming members of SWARM. For $25 members of SWARM get guaranteed admission to games in addition to two T-shirts and other smaller benefits.

If this basketball season is like the last one, only SWARM members will be allowed to be on the court. Not only are these students close to the action, but sometimes they are the action, as when players dashing for a ball going out of bounds use those yellow-shirted fans as their landing zone.

Tech has more than a dozen sports in addition to football and basketball. To watch these sports on campus, just show up and walk in. No tickets are required ahead of time, and, once again, student admission is always free. Just show your BuzzCard.

Unfortunately, the free tickets don't extend to away games. Students must pay for away tickets, and the price depends on the host school.

Golf Digest ranks Tech No.1 school

Based on academic reputation, superior coaching staff, quality facilities and past performance, among other categories, Golf Digest chose Tech as the No.1 golfing school in the nation. Tech's golfers are deserving of such high acclaim. They have finished in the top five nationally in four out of the last five years. The Jackets can boast of three ACC Championship titles as well.

Tech graduate Nicholas Thompson won his first round match 4 and 3 in the U.S. Amateur over Dustin Pimm. Thompson is one of 32 players remaining in the nation.

Thompson joins a group of elite alumni golfers, including six on the PGA tour. David Duval, Stewart Cink, Michael Clark, Jr., Tripp Isenhour, Matt Kuchar and Larry Mize all carry active tour cards and receive the alumni mailings.
For the past few years Tech volleyball has been building an elite national program. Last season they took first in the ACC, with a perfect 16-0 conference record. The Jackets advanced to the Sweet Sixteen of the NCAA tournament for the second time in a row while gaining their fifth consecutive tournament berth last season. This season the Jackets will depend on a handful of new recruits to continue the team’s success.

The loss of All-Americans Lauren Sauer and Lynette Moster certainly has left a hole to be filled, but a re-ranked fourth best in the nation by recruiting class ranked fourth best in the country. The Jackets advanced to the Sweet Sixteen of the NCAA tournament for the second time in a row while gaining their fifth consecutive tournament berth last season.

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