Complementing the offensively well-to-do infield, the outfield features juniors Jeremy Slate and Brandon Bragg, as well as sophomore Steven Blackwood. The centerpiece of this unit is All-American Jeremy Slate, who displayed an astonishing freshman campaign two years ago with unheralded power setting the single season Tech homerun record with 18 dingers in the summer of 2002. Not extremely publicized, Blackwood possesses enough talent and spunk in his bat to turn some heads and make a name for himself as he knocked in 38 RBI while only starting 27 games. Hall's take: "Steven Blackwood is just a great baseball player. He comes to play every day, and he plays very hard."

Pitching

Undoubtedly the youngest and most inexperienced members of the team are part of the pitching unit. The starting rotation, although not set in stone, will likely feature the amazing versatility of sophomore M. Iach O'Wings as the ace of a staff whose remaining four pitchers did not pitch a full season as starter last year. Even so, all five have been called upon in the past to start big tournament games. They'll likely do so in the last five, including senior starter-to-closer-back-to-starter Brian Burns, who recorded a team-leading eight saves last season, and redshirt senior Phillip Perry, junior Andrew Kown and the No. 7 prospect in the sophomore class, Jason N. Eighthgang.

The rotation, though full of question marks, features a host of role players. Owings, the 2003 ACC Rookie of the Year and leader in the clubhouse in homeruns with 15 as well as wins as a pitcher with nine, displayed talent with endurance as he pitched 88 innings last season, second highest on the squad. Bunkiewicz's rotation somehow needed depth, so much so that Hall dubbed him the team's "trouble-shooter." The Kerry Wood of the staff is Jason Eighthgang, whose "stuff" is the best in the country, claims Hall. Pitching in the thrilling triple-header that resulted in a Tech victory in the ACC Championship, Eighthgang went 3-0 with a very respectable 3.70 ERA in 41.1 innings pitched in his freshman campaign. Hall only sees him getting better. saying, "We are waiting for him to really blossom and become a dominant pitcher."

T he bullpen returns all four pivotal returning pitchers from last season; senior Aaron Walker, juniors Nick Wagner and Jordan Crews, and senior Ryan Self. Of the four, Walker pitched the most innings last season, with 44.1 innings and is poised to lead the unit with his senior leadership again this year. Look for one of these four to emerge as the closer further into the season. Hall hopes that the schedule, though one of the most challenging schedule that we have had since I have been at Georgia Tech."

Danny Hall
Head coach

"This may be the most challenging schedule that we have had since I have been at Georgia Tech."

Blackwood is just a great baseball player. He comes to play every day, and he plays very hard."

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Danny Hall
Head coach

By Christopher Gooley / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Preseason No. 4 Tech is looking to improve on its regional-ending performance from last season. The team is playing one of the nation’s toughest schedules to help them prepare for a potential Omaha trip.

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Lewis
from page 31

the nation’s top prep squads. He was a USA Today honorable men-
tion All-America.

He didn’t inherit super powers from his parents, unless you count
having good role models as something out of this world. He said the
biggest thing he learned from them is “can’t is another word for lazy.”

“There is nothing that you can’t do. If you put your mind to it, you
can get it done. If I want an A in a class, I just gotta put the work in,
put the time in, it’ll happen. I don’t want to say I can’t get an A, or I
can’t score,” Lewis said.

When asked what is something that not a lot of people know about
him, Lewis said, “The biggest thing about me, and my teammates would
say [the same thing is that] I’m real silly. I’m the silliest guy on the team.
I’m a talk about you, every little detail I see…if you got the wrong
socks on, anything like that I’m gonna
say something.”

His best friend and four year
roommate and teammate Roberts
Brooks agreed, stating the first word
that came to mind when he thinks
of Marvin is “silly.”

Well, his accomplishments are
no laughing matter. Lewis is an all-
around role model for students, and
athletes. He exemplifies the best qual-
ities of a student-athlete.

Hopefully these “three points” have
allowed you to better know the dis-
ciplined, hard-working leader.

A few of Marvin’s favorite things:

Type of Music: Rhythm and Blues
Artists: Musiq Soulchild, Erykah Badu
Colors: Black/blue
NBA Player: Tim Duncan
Movie: Higher Learning
Place to Hang: Underground Atlanta
Actor: Denzel Washington
Person he’d like to meet dead or alive: Marcus Garvey
Discover the top three points of the “Three Point Specialist”

By Fenton Gardner
Contributing Writer

On the basketball court, Marvin Lewis is Tech’s resident “three-point specialist.” In his senior year, he scored 14 points against North Carolina State on Monday. He scored above 1,000 points so far in his career and is currently averaging 11.9 points per game, with a .398 three-point average, making 51 of 128 attempts as well as taken.

Marvin has had many accolades throughout his career, which can easily be found on www.ramblinwreck.com. While he has certainly accomplished a lot as an athlete, there’s more to him than is possible to find out at the click of the thumbhole. Secondly, Marvin is Tech’s specialist, a role that he’s been known to lead by example of others, performing well with a local accounting firm, who has given him the flexibility to not start until December so that he can see where basketball will take him.

Besides helping teammates on the field, Lewis has served as a calculus tutor for Tech’s academic services department. He is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He was honored in 2001 and 2003 with the Tower Award, given annually in recognition of academic achievement to minority students.

Furthermore, one should be aware of Lewis’ leadership: He is so knowledgeable about basketball that his talking can make it easier for his teammates and eventually easier for him,” Hewitt said. Right away Lewis made his impact on the ACC. He was named ACC Rookie of the Week four times. Although becoming a leader on the court was a role that Lewis had to grow into, it seems like it has always been second nature for him academically. He currently holds a 3.6 GPA, and has been on the Dean’s List every semester except one summer term.

Senior Marvin Lewis has excelled on the basketball court and in the classroom during his four years at Tech. The Dean’s List student has received recognition from the ACC for his academics and athletic skills.

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By Christopher Godley / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS
Stews from page 36

“I want in there with a quasi-business plan and told them, ‘Listen, this market needs a show like what we would like to bring to the station. In a market like this one with 70 percent African-Americans, it would be perfect. Why don’t you have a show like this? Give us a shot, we’ll do it for free,’” Doug said.

Edgar agreed to give the idea a try, and he put the brothers on the air. Initially he took them up on their offer to work for free, though it did not last long. “Halfway through the first show, the owner of the station called and said ‘those guys are on payroll from now on,’” Doug said. “Even though it was only 10 bucks a day.”

Creating chemistry and chaos

Since the show’s humble beginnings, “Two Live Stews” has exploded. The show has earned continually better time slots, now broadcasting during the midday hours of 12 p.m.-3 p.m., and has propelled The Zone from 15th in its market to fourth.

The Stewarts have found success by doing things “Stew style,” which consists of developing a personal environment on the air, involving listeners as much as possible and pushing the limits. In addition to the perspective the two bring from having played sports at a higher level, the fact that Doug and Ryan grew up together in the small community of Moncks Corner, South Carolina allows the two to swap stories and jaw jack in a way most sports talk radio hosts cannot. “I think we get real personal. We tell a lot of stories, and people like when you tell stories,” said Doug. “We’ve been doing that for our whole lives.”

“The way we are on the air is the exact way we are in everyday life... We’ve been trash talking for a long time... We come from a long line of trash talkers.”

The values the two learned in that community also seems to have instilled a desire in them to create a family of listeners. “We were blessed to have our mother and father together while we were growing up, and the majority of our family members lived around us, so we were raised by a community,” said Ryan.

The Stews have hosted creative events like their wildly successful Madden 2004 tournament, in which over 100 listeners wanted to participate and play the EA Sports video game with the brothers. The First Annual Two Live Stews Step Show will take place March 12 at Earthlink Live.

Already on Sirius Satellite Radio, the two hope syndication is in their future. “I’d love to give the listeners in other cities the same thing that we have brought to Atlanta,” said Ryan.

No matter what the future holds for Ryan and big brother Doug, the younger Stewart will always appreciate the time he spent on The Flats. Ryan’s time at Tech can be described as tumultuous. Recruited by Coach Bobby Ross during the 1990 season in which the Jackets won a share of the national championship, Ryan only played for Ross for one season before the coach left for the NFL. He then played under both Bill Lewis and George O’Leary—three different coaches in the four-year span from 1991-1995, an experience that he believes hurt his development.

“I was really sad when O’Leary left... because the first thing I thought about was those kids that came to Tech that will now have to learn from someone new and learn all new schemes.”

Ryan still found success on the field, and he was drafted in the third round of the 1996 NFL draft. During his first two off-seasons, he returned to Tech to take classes towards the completion of his degree. He finished his BS in Management in 1998, and he recalls it as his proudest moment as a Yellow Jacket.

“I love Tech. I still go to football games, basketball games and I pop into a baseball game every now and then,” said Ryan. “It’s my alma mater, and I support it in everything I can.”
Duke takes out FSU loss on Tech women
By John Scaduto
Contributing Writer

The Lady Jackets finished their game at North Carolina road trip 0-2 after losing to the No. 2 Duke Blue Devils, 81-41. Earlier in the week, Tech also failed to gain victory against NC State. The losses put them in last place in the ACC at 2-6, with an overall record of 11-11. The Jack-ets have lost their last three and are 1-6 in the last nine games.

Duke lost their first Atlantic Coast Conference game in nearly three years to Florida State loss on Tech women in the first period alone, falling behind 49-16 at the half. By that time it was an impossible uphill battle. As a team, the Jack-ets shot 14-for-47—under 30 percent. O'neil bright spot was senior All-ACC hopeful Fallon Stokes, who went 7-for-17 for 15 points while pulling down eight rebounds.

"It was difficult to match their intensity. We were not only trying to match their intensity, but we were also trying to execute offen-sively on our own. When we were not succeeding in that it carried over in bringing us down," Tech guard Alex Stewart said.

The road ahead does not look to be any smoother for the Lady Jack-ets, but four of the remaining six games are at home and all are ACC matches as well. The Jack-ets host the ACC's third-ranked Maryland on Sunday before travelling to Clemson next Thursday. Then Tech returns home to host the ACC second-ranked UNC, and NC State before finishing the season in Winston-Salem against Wake Forest.

"They came off the Florida State loss playing with a lot more intensity and, I thought, a lot more passion," MaChelle Joseph Head Coach.

Contributing Writer

Beyond the White and Gold

H as college recruiting gone too far?

It was 1999, and highly recruit-ed defensive lineman Albert Means signed a letter of intent for the University of Alabama. Tennessee reason that Alabama received Means' signature was because of the pressure that Means received from his coach to play for Alabama. Lynn Lang, Albert's coach, was later found to have received $150,000 cash by a booster when Means signed with Alabama. Consequently, Alabama has been put on probation, lost available scholarships, and the booster and the coach were both charged criminally. Means later left Alabama and moved on to play for Ole Miss, realizing he only went to Alabama for one reason. Because of issues like this, it's obvious that recruiting has become a serious business for some colleges and players.

More recently, the University of Colorado's name was raised in the discussion of recruitment violations. Two weeks ago, Colorado was said to have enticed recruits by offering them sex and women to entertain them on their visits. On Tuesday, a stripper service, Hardbodies Enter-tainment, confirmed that the Univer-sity of Colorado had purchased strippers to entertain their recruits, offering them lap dances and other entertainment. Hardbodies also stated that many other universities had purchased strippers from them.

"With all the information available today in publications and over the internet, recruits are viewed as heroes for whatever university they sign for. There are websites such as TheInsiders.com and Rivals.com that rate each player from a onestar to a five-star, making updates on every move they make or every call the player receives from an A D," coach.

With all the information available today in publications and over the internet, recruits are viewed as heroes...

Beyond the White and Gold

What will be the next step in the evolving process?

The NCAA had its hands full with another issue involving young football player. Maurice Clarett, a five-star recruit, was recently ruled eligible for the next NFL draft due to the NCAA's violation of the antitrust law. The NCAA wants to appeal the ruling, but it is possible that it won't make it before the NFL draft. Since when does a college football player have the talent to make it in the professional ranks, but let's hope that there are more players like Larry Fitzgerald who have the talent to make it in the professional ranks, and over the internet, players are viewed as heroes for whatever university they sign for. There are websites such as TheInsiders.com and Rivals.com that rate each player from a one-star to a five-star, making updates on every move they make or every call the player receives from an A D.

Last year when Clarett was ruled ineligible to play for the Buckeyes, he was quoted as saying he was going to focus on going to school and trying to get the chance to play at Ohio State again. It wasn't highly publicized later when Clarett was found to be failing PE in the middle of the fall semester. Let us all hope that this ruling doesn't ruin college football.

It's a special thing when a fan gets to see a senior player like Eli Manning suit up for Ole Miss for four straight years and lead his team to victory, or when Roy Williams catches an amazing pass for Tec-nes every game day for four years. Col-lege football will be hurt if players try to leave after one or two years—it will deal with the coaches' efforts to build successful teams, and it will lessen the connection that the students have with their universities.

Sure, there are players like Larry Fitzgerald who have the talent to make it in the professional ranks, but let's hope that there are more players like Eli Manning who love college football and being a part of it and less players like Maurice Clarett who only care for the money and their intensity. When does recruiting go too far?
By Christopher Gooley / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

No. 16 Cagers stomp on Roy Williams’s Tar Heels in thriller

B.J. Elder goes in for one of his 30 points against No.17 North Carolina’s defenses. Tech defeated UNC 88-77 at the Thrillerdome. The Jackets will travel to Charlottesville, Virginia Saturday to face the Cavaliers.

By John Scaduto
Contributing Writer

The last time the Yellow Jackets faced a win-or-drop ACC match, it ended in a loss to NC State in Raleigh. Techsemsituation preceded the show-down with North Carolina Tuesday—both teams coming in fighting for their third spot behind Duke and NC State. This time, Tech would not be denied.

Tech took a 3-0 lead on a BJ Elder jumper, but quickly fell behind as a lack of transition defense gave UNC a 15-11 lead. But the Jackets took over with a barrage of three-pointers that kept the team ahead and seemed to be a sign of things to come.

At one point in the game, Tech was 4-8 from beyond the arc while only shooting 1-8 on the inside.

From there, they would take a 34-29 lead into the half against the visiting Tar Heels.

The second half is when it all started. Tech’s BJ Elder and UNC’s Rashad McCants turned it into a street ball battle, during which it seemed only those two players were on the court. They went back and forth trading baskets and dapped hands at one point.

“Three-pointers are when you’re feeling like that, you just want to get a good look at the basket and let it go.”

B.J. Elder
Guard

“It was just both of us out there competing,” Elder said. “We both have a lot of respect for one another, and we have played against each other before, so we know how to step up our games.”

McCants came into the game as the leading scorer in the ACC. “Defensively, I thought we needed to tighten up on McCants,” Hewitt said.

“He’s such a good shooter, if you give him a little room, he can put up big numbers.”

This concluded with an unbelievable stretch that saw, in sequence, McCants two-pointer, Elder three-pointer, McCants two-pointer, Elder three-pointer, McCants three-pointer, Jack Jarrett lay-up, McCants two-pointer, Elder three-pointer, Jackie Manuel tip-in and another Elder three-point-

“Hi would say, ‘When you’re feeling like that, you just want to get a good look at the basket and let it go.’

Will Bynum scored 17 points, while Marvin Lewis had 14 for the Jackets.

A three-pointer by Elder put the Jackets up 60-57 and from there, they never relented.

UNC Coach Roy Williams got caught with a technical after arguing no-call, and Will Bynum hit both free-throws, giving Tech a nice cushion for the rest of the match.

“I hope people enjoyed that game,” Hewitt said.

Tech will look to keep the streak alive in Charlottesville on Saturday as they take on Virginia.
Softball upsets No. 9 Louisiana-Lafayette

By Andy Holt  Contributing Writer

The Tech softball team took a 4-1 victory from ninth-ranked Louisiana-Lafayette in the Mardi Gras Classic Feb. 8 behind the three-hit complete-game efforts of pitcher Jessica Salinger. Tech scored seven runs on the nine hits that the Ragin’ Cajuns allowed, losing by a four-run inning.

Against Louisiana-Monroe, Sallinger had her fourth career no-hitter to lead the team to its second win of the season.

Tech opened the season with a win against Gardner-Webb in the opening game of the Classic. Tech narrowly defeated GWU 3-2. Third baseman Lauren Schicht gave Tech a 2-0 advantage in the top half of the sixth inning. Amy Houser had a two-out double in the seventh inning to give the Jackets the win. Tech's pitcher Erin Voeltz and GWU's Stacie Reichert did not allow any runs between the third and sixth innings.

Against Louisiana-Monroe, Sallinger's offensive sidewayshime runtherene hits that the Jackets had in only four innings. The team's only loss at the tournament came against Kentucky. The Jackets lost 5-3 to Kentucky at the UL-M Lady Indian Softball Complex.

The Jackets had led 3-1 going into the sixth inning, but Kentucky scored on three unearned runs in the top half of the sixth inning. Liz Bartle had given Tech the edge after a powerful hit that led three runnerumbers to score. The Jackets are now 3-1 for the season.

Tech's home opener is at Glenn Field tomorrow Feb. 14 at noon against Tennessee-Chattanooga. Directions to Glenn Field are available at www.ramblinwreck.com.

The crew team hosted the 2004 Atlanta Erg Sprints last Saturday at the Campus Recreation Center. The competition simulated a crew race indoors through electronic rowing machines, hooked to computers.

The weather last Saturday was frigid, but the Tech crew team managed to comfortably host their regattas with over 350 people, including eight colleges. How, you ask? Indoors, of course. Throughout the year, the crew team trains realistically on rowing machines known simply to the competitors as “ergs.”

Schools attending included University of Georgia, Clemson, Georgia State, Emory, Berry, NorthWest, Davidson and Auburn. There were also four high schools in attendance and many individual, non-affiliated athletes. The day comprised of 15 events ranging from Juniors, Lightweights, M as to Open divisions. There was also a team relay at the end of the day, where each of the four team members pulled 500 meters.

“Ergs,” or ergometers are used widely in crew, but in the winter they become the method of choice for indoor competitions when the weather becomes unbearable. The erg simulates a rowing stroke in a crew racing shell and can be connected together and synchronized to simulate a race of any length. “The ergs allow for a different style of crew competition, but one still true to tradition,” said Anna Richards, a junior at Tech and a member of the crew team.

While competitors row, they watch on a screen in front of them what place they are in, how closely they are to the competitor in front of them and how close the person behind them is. “Indoor is different, but outdoor is better, in my opinion,” said spectator Brett Maley, a UGA sophomore.

Also, members of the crew team races in individuals representing their teams, and teams win based on individual bests; whereas in a traditional race, teams compete against each other in separate boats, and share the time-light.

The Atlanta Erg Sprints is an indoor rowing competition hosted every year by the crew team. This year the competition was held on the first and second courts of the newly renovated CRC. Teams packed the beaches lining one side of the courts and spilled out onto floors with sleeping bags and blankets on the ground just to get ready for the event.

However, Tech wasthehost team for a reason and showed its stand-out potential among any group of peers by coming in first in team relay and lightweight men, second in lightweight women and novice women, and third in lightweight men, lightweight women and novice women. “We are dominating!” exclaimed varsity team member Austin Nchicles, during the event.

This year’s regatta was also an official qualifying regatta for the world indoor rowing championships, also known as C.R.A.S.H.-B’s, which is held Feb. 22 in Boston.

For more information on GT Crew, check out www.gtcrew.com.

crew team hosts annual “Erg” sprints

By Edward Tamsberg  Staff Writer

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Thrashers

Man vs. machine

What’s more difficult than completing a 10,000-meter race in the water? Try doing it indoors on a machine. Page 35.

Marvin the Martian

When Marvin Lewis isn’t scoring three-pointers for the Yellow Jackets on the court, he’s steering it up in the classroom. Page 31.

No. 4 beesball look to Omaha

By Vidal Patel

Contributing Writer

Being No. 1 in the ACC is nothing new for Coach Danny Hall’s top-ranked beesball squad as they head into Hall’s 11th season and eleventh top-25 preseason ranking in as many years at the helm. Rather, it’s finishing top-ranked that the Jackets find as the only unchecked goal on Hall’s long list of team accomplishments that have accumulated in those eleven years. “We’ve gotten Oma-heard that we have won an ACC Championship. Those are two major accomplishments,” Hall said.

Ranked atop the preseason national rankings last year, Tech faltered at Russ Chandler during Regionals and found itself looking ahead to 2004 despite including the ACC Championship under its string of accomplishments of 2003.

All expect the true colors of his team to come out this season. “I think our players have grown from that and have used it as a motivating factor to be better this year. I thought that we had great workouts in the fall and the players have worked very hard,” Hall said.

See Beesball, page 29

Two Live Stews

By Jody Shaw

Associate Editor

It’s just past midday on a Monday, and AM 790 The Zone’s Doug Stewart and Ryan Stewart put a call out to their listeners. “We want to hear your bairers and your busters,” Ryan says. Through the terms might seem strange to new listeners, the loyal listeners keep it like constants: their show has succeeded through its ability to reach out to new previously un-tapped market—other shows are influenced by his experience in the league with the Lions, countered that the defense is too quick, strong and smart for the option attack to find the same success it does in the Pac-10.

Doug and Ryan got together in the basement for the Two Live Stews’ “heat up airwaves with new style”

Douglas Stewart, right, and Ryan Stewart, center, host one of Atlanta’s most popular sports talk radio shows. Before joining the radio business, the brothers played college football, with Ryan playing for Tech.

Tech standouts earn scholarships

Basketball player Marvin Lewis, all-American volleyball player Kele Eviland and football player Hall Higginbotham has joined the staff as Assistant Director of Player Development. Ciano will oversee Tech’s strength and conditioning program for all sports, and Harrington will work with football.

Mahoney receives ACC honors

Tech’s Brendon Mahoney has been named the ACC-MAC Indoor Track and Field Performer of the Week. Mahoney ran the conference’s fastest time in the men’s mile last weekend at the Metro Invitational. He also finished in eighth place with an ACC provisional qualifying time of 4:02.32, his first qualifying time in the mile this season. Mahoney also holds the ACC’s fastest time in the 800 meters.

 Savannah

Thrashers number challenge

hint: beesball

3

Here’s the number...what does it represent? To enter email the Sports Editor at sports@technique.gatech.edu with the correct answer to the challenge. A winner will be selected from among the correct answers. The winner will receive a pair of tickets to an Atlanta Thrashers home game where admission is always $10 for a seat in the 8:36 section with a student ID. Visit www.atlantathrashers.com for more info on college nights.

The senior finished in eighth place in the 800 meters. Mahoney also holds the ACC’s fastest time in the 800 meters.

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Number of games against ranked opponents (the No. 4 beesball team) will face this season. The ranked opponents include: Clemson, North Carolina and Southern California.

4

Number of victories Tech earned in the latest ACC tournament. The Ramblin’ Wreck and later the De- ployment, while Dmann Harrington will oversee Tech’s strength and conditioning program for all sports, and Harrington will work with football.

8

Number of Jackets who made the 2003 ACC All-Academic football team, the most out of any school in the conference. The honorees include: Jamil Butler, S. J. Daniels, Eric Henderson, Nate Curry, John Paul Fonta, Hal Higginbotham, Chris Reis and Genes William Ikinion. The requirement for the list is a 3.0 GPA.

5

National ranking of Tech’s golf team in the latest Golfweek magazine rankings. The team opened its spring schedule Wednesday at the Talladega National Golf Course.

7

Number of victories Tech earned against Middle Tennessee State on Wednesday at the Bill Moore Tennis Center. Tech earned five singles and two doubles victories in win. Lindsey Stauss and Maria Nieto remain undefeated in singles play this season.

14

Number of minutes it took B.J. Elder to score the winning three-pointers against No. 17 North Carolina last Tuesday’s game. Elder finished the night with 30 points to lead the team to an 88-77 victory.

Atlanta Thrashers number challenge

hint: beesball

3

Here’s the number...what does it represent? To enter email the Sports Editor at sports@technique.gatech.edu with the correct answer to the challenge. A winner will be selected from among the correct answers. The winner will receive a pair of tickets to an Atlanta Thrashers home game where admission is always $10 for a seat in the 8:36 section with a student ID. Visit www.atlantathrashers.com for more info on college nights.