Back Home
Quarterback A.J. Suggs plays his first game in Georgia since high school this Saturday. Page 33.

Booze and Beware.
Watch out party-goers, the Dean of Students Office recently approved new alcohol fines. Page 1

Lady Jackets on national TV
The Georgia Tech Women’s Basketball team is scheduled for seven televised games this year, including a nationally televised contest with Virginia on February 16. The match-up will be the first time in program history that the team has appeared in a nationally televised competition. The game will be shown on ESPN2 at 7:00 p.m.

“Lunch with Football” begins this Friday
The Georgia Tech football staff will host the first of their season-long lunches this Friday with Coach Gailey. The lunches are open to the public, admission is free and there will be a complimentary lunch provided for the first 200 attendees. The lunch will be held at Alexander Memorial Coliseum from 11:30 a.m. through 12:30 p.m.

Track team to be honored at Saturday’s game
Tech’s Women’s Track Team will be honored this Saturday before the season opener against Vanderbilt. The team will be recognized for their outstanding year, which resulted in a their first-ever ACC championship title. The team took the championship from the nine-time defending champions North Carolina.

Volleyball opens season in Virginia
The Yellow Jackets open their season under new head coach Bond Shymansky this weekend in Fairfax, Virginia. The team will be competing in the George Mason Tournament against nationally ranked Northern Iowa, George Mason, Villanova and Rice.

by the numbers
16
Number of returning starters for the Georgia Tech football team. The Yellow Jackets have nine players returning on defense, 5 on offense, as well as a punter and place kicker. Five of the returnees earned all-ACC honors for 2001.

4
Number of freshman scholarship players as of now who have signed with the Georgia Tech Men’s Baseball team. Jim Ntorim, from Sweden, Chris Bosh, from Texas, Jarrett Jack, from Maryland, and Thedius Tarveet, from Louisiana, round out the incoming freshman class.

28
The number of years that Tech Head Coach Chan Gailey has been coaching football. He spent the last eight seasons in the National Football League, including two years as the head coach of the Dallas Cowboys.

11/17
The date that Georgia Tech’s Women’s Basketball will kick off their 2003 season. The team will host Charlotte in the opening round of the Preseason WNIT.

football forecast
Montana vs. Hofstra
Indiana State vs. Western Michigan
Ohio State vs. Tulsa
Lock Haven vs. Northeastern
Notre Dame vs. Maryland
Missouri vs. Illinois
Troy State vs. Nebraska
Clayson vs. Georgia
Clayson vs. Georgia
Ohio State vs. Louisiana Tech
LSU vs. Virginia Tech
Submit your picks at ncom.net/footballforecast

Tech builds on success with solid freshman signees
By Al Praznik
Senior Staff Writer

The 2002 Yellow Jackets baseball team had one of the best seasons in school history, but all signs point to 2003 being even better. It will be hard to replace the outstanding play and overall leadership of the group of players including Victor Monocal, Jason Perry, Tyler Park- er, Matthew Boggs, and Wes Rynders.

All five of those players were in the starting lineup in the College World Series, and most teams would be devastated by such losses. Tech, however, had quality backups who played with regularity and also will add some impressive new faces both in the lineup and on the mound.

Combining a core of talented and experienced veterans with the new freshmen should lead to a return visit to Omaha come June.

Headlining the incoming freshmen is a risrefra of high draft picks in Major League Baseball’s amateur draft who many thought would be in the pros. Jason Neighborgall, Micah Owings and Tyler Greene could all be Major League stars in a few years, but they all chose Tech over the minor leagues.

Jason Neighborgall has first round talent, but he dropped to the Boston Red Sox in the seventh round because of concerns over signability. Neighborgall has a fastball in the mid 90’s, has been clocked as high as 98, and has drawn comparisons to Florida Marlin phenom Josh Beck- ett.

Concerns over a injury in his junior season and his high price tag reportedly in the neighb-...
Micah Owings is both a power pitcher and a power hitter. At Gainesville High, Owings had an amazing career, putting up unbelievable numbers. His total of 69 career homers was one short of tying the national record, and he put up a 1.03 ERA in his senior season as well.

Those numbers put Owings on Baseball America’s All-America second team both as a hitter and as a pitcher and led the Colorado Rockies to draft him in the second round as a pitcher. Owings should also become a regular in the rotation right away and will help make up for the loss of Jason Perry at first base on his non-pitching days.

Head Coach Danny Hall is understandably excited by his pair of freshman aces and commented, “We have had some great pitchers in the 10 years that I have been here, but we have never had two guys with the amount of talent that they bring in right away. If Jason wanted to be a first-round pick, he could have been if he had said that he would settle for ‘slot money.’” Hall added, “He [Jason Perry] felt like he was better than that and I think that he is better than that. Micah is a tremendous talent and a great competitor. Another way that he is going to be able to help our team is that he can really hit. Not only is he a great talent on the mound, and that is where his future is, but he will be a major factor for us offensively.”

Tyler Greene will be wearing the number 5 this season. As the successor to Nomar Garciaparra and Victor Menocal’s number and position, Greene has some awfully big shoes to fill. He has the talent as evidenced by being selected to Baseball America’s high school All-America second team and the Atlanta Braves drafting him in the second round. Greene has been known more for his defense than for his offense but that will be more than enough as he grows into his talents.

On landing such a talent to replace the departed Menocal, Coach Danny Hall said, “Getting Tyler Greene was a major coup. The left side of the infield was a hole that we were really worried about, and Tyler is a tremendous athlete with great skills. He is going to do nothing but get better. That’s a major coup to see a guy who is a second round pick walk away from the Atlanta Braves and decide that he wanted to spend the next three years at Georgia Tech.”

The rest of the incoming class have not gotten the same amount of national recognition but will definitely be important contributors in the upcoming season. Jon Crosby and Ryan Self are the two forgotten pitchers in the recruiting class, but both of those guys are outstanding pitchers in their own right,” Hall said. “Ryan Stanley is a guy that gives us some more depth with our position players and I think he will compete with some of our older guys for playing time.”

“Getting Tyler Greene was a major coup. Tyler is a tremendous athlete with great skills. He is going to do nothing but get better.”

Danny Hall
Head Coach of Tech Baseball
Vandy Preview

from page 36

turning defense into offense. The Jackets set a NCAA record that year with seven fumbles returned for touchdowns.

“That’s our number one goal, to score on defense,” Tenuta said. “I think our players understand that if you score on defense, you’re going to win the football game. That’s our number one goal every week—score on defense, create turnovers and create havoc for quarterbacks.”

The Jackets will have a bigger defensive line with seniors Matthew Etheridge and Matt Schmidgall coming back. Tenuta also liked the depth of the defensive line this year with sophomores Leon Thomas and Mark Logan.

“That’s our number one goal every week—score on defense, create turnovers and create havoc for quarterbacks.”

Jon Tenuta
Defensive Coordinator

three of those positions. Tennessee transfer A.J. Suggs has been named Tech’s starting quarterback. He and redshirt freshman Damarious Bilbo battled long and hard into fall practice to determine who would take the first snap for the Jackets against Vandy.

Although Suggs was named the starter, Coach Gailey insists that the athletically-gifted Bilbo will see his share of snaps under center. “A.J. has come out this fall and played very well,” said Gailey. “He has established himself as the starter, but I think we’re going to keep our same thought process at that position. Bilbo is too good an athlete to stand on the sideline for the entire season, so we’ll get him into the game somehow, some way.”

Suggs is not short on big game experience. He started four games for Tennessee in 2000, two of those four against SEC powers Florida and LSU. Suggs posted a 2-2 record in those games, with five touchdowns and 3 interceptions.

On the whole, Tech’s receiving corps may be even better than last year’s edition. The loss of Campbells, Tech’s all-time leading receiver and touchdown reception producer, will be assaged by the return of three very proven go-to guys, and some gifted newcomers. The talented trio of seniors Will Glover and Kerry Watkins, along with junior Jonathan Smith, combined for 136 receptions, 1,810 yards, and 12 touchdowns in 2001. Speedy sophomore Nate Curry returns after missing all of 2001 with an ACL injury.

Sophomore Leon Thomas and Mark Logan add depth at the position, and true freshman LaKelderick Bridges is expected to contribute as well, following a very impressive fall.

Running back is another area where the Jackets are relatively untested, yet talented. Junior Tony Hollings, a converted safety, won the starting job in the spring. He showed an impressive burst and a tendency to hit the hole quickly in practices.

Senior Sidney Ford will also see significant playing time. He bounced back from nagging injuries in the spring and fall, and impressed the coaching staff with his quickness and strength. The Jackets will also welcome back redshirt-junior Jermaine Hatch. Hatch saw significant playing time at the end of the 2000 season prior to sustaining a season-ending knee injury in fall practice last year.

A combined 645 imposing lbs. of physical girth and agility represent the left side of the Jackets’ offensive line. Sophomore Leon Robinson (315 lbs.) and Nat Dorsey (330 lbs.) spearhead an extremely talented first unit. Dorsey, who will not turn 19 until September 9, is primed for All-American accolades in only his second season.

Sophomore Kyle Wallace and senior Raymond Roberts-Blake bolster the right side of the line for the Jackets, while steady junior Hugh Keely moves over from right guard to assume the center position vacated by the graduated David Schmidgall.

Defense should be a considered a major strength for the Jackets this season, highlighted by the return of senior defensive end Greg Gathers. Gathers, a potential first round pick in next spring’s NFL draft, is on pace to become the ACC’s all-time sack leader this season. With just six sacks this year Gathers will break the previous mark of 35.5 shared by former Virginia star Chris Slade and former Florida State stalwart Reinard Wilson.

Gathers will be joined by senior Gary Johnson, sophomore Alfred Malone, and promising sophomore Tony Harpove as part of a line short on depth, but not on talent. Any coach in the country would relish the opportunity to utilize Tech’s linebacking corps. Senior Recardo Wimbush has started since he stepped foot on the Flats in 1999. He has led the Jackets in tackles in two of the past three seasons.

Joining him will be junior sensation Daryl Smith, who was plagued by an elbow injury for most of 2001. Smith was a freshman All-American in 2000.

Athletically-gifted junior Keyaron “Key” Fox rounds out the speedy, talented trio, which will receive depth from senior Matthew Etheridge, junior Ather Brown and Anthony Lawston, sophomore Tashiebo Anyansi, and redshirt-freshman Gerris Wilkinson. All are expected toGeorgia Tech Head Coach Chan Gailey will make his debut with the Yellow Jackets this Saturday at 6 pm against the Vanderbilt Commodores at the newly renovated and expanded Bobby Dodd Stadium.

“We want to have the best defense in the ACC. We’ve still got a lot of work to do, but as long as we stick together and stay injury free, we can reach that goal.”

Jeremy Muayres
Georgia Tech Defensive Back

See Vandy Preview, page 34

By Chris Gooley / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS
Senior swimmer takes Tech and his sport to an international level

By Kimberly Rieck
Senior Staff Writer

While Coach Seth Baron was recruiting his second class at Georgia Tech, he received a tip from Yoav Bruck, a former NCAA All-American swimmer from Auburn University. Baron worked with Bruck, a former Israeli national team swimmer, when he was an assistant coach at Auburn.

"Yoav brought Shilo [Ayalon] to my attention and helped me facilitate [recruiting relationship] with him," said Baron. Ayalon was an up and coming swimmer attending Hof Hasharon, a school that also serves as a training ground for junior and national team swimmers in Israel.

Ayalon traveled to Atlanta and became a part of one of the most influential classes in Georgia Tech swimming history. Baron said in each of the members of the 1999 class' years, they've been the the highest scoring class at any school in the ACC including perennial champion Virginia.

The group consists of Ayalon, co-captain, Josh Hersko, co-captain, James Salazar, co-captain, Tomonori Tsuji, Jorge Oliver, and Robbie Foster.

"We have a really good group of seniors. They are top contributors to the team in every aspect - academics, social, swimming, and they're a great group of guys" said Ayalon. At the 2000 ACC championships, the team finished sixth. Last year the team placed second, behind Virginia.

Since Ayalon joined the team, the number of swimmers from his home country has also dramatically increased. Itai Eden joined the Yellow Jackets in 2000. The freshmen class this year includes Yonatan Cohen and Ofir Soria from Hof Hasharon.

"Itai's a great friend and I'm glad he's here with me. Now Ofir [Soria] and Yonatan [Cohen] are here and I wish them all the best. I'll do everything I can to support them," said Ayalon.

This summer Ayalon competed in the 26th European Championships. He shattered a national record by over 20 seconds when he placed 6th in the preliminaries for the 1500 meter freestyle. He placed 8th at the finals with a time that stands amongst the top 25 in the world. He also placed 17th in the 400 meter freestyle and broke another Israeli record in the event. Ayalon's previous international competitions include the 2001 FINA World Junior and Senior National Swimming Championships, and the European Junior National Swimming Championships.

Ayalon's coach at Georgia Tech, Seth Baron, has coached him to two ACCs, two ACC's, and three ACC's. Ayalon has earned Academic All-American status, Dean's list honors, and Faculty Honors. He currently maintains a 3.8 gpa in Electrical Engineering despite a hectic practice schedule.

"I devote myself fully to both of them and do well in both I guess."

Shilo Ayalon
On his academics and swimming

Championships, and the European Junior National Swimming Championships.

On the NCAA level, Ayalon earned All-American status when he placed 8th in the 1650 yard freestyle at the 2002 NCAA championship. He was an honorable mention All-American the year before. In addition, he has been an ACC All-American in numerous events and holds five school records including four individual records in the 500, 1650, 1000 yard freestyle and 400 IM events.

"He's done an absolute wonderful job while he's been here. He has and will continue this year as a senior to provide leadership and exposure to Georgia Tech swimming on a collegiate and international level. His contribution to our program has been immense. It's been a pleasure having him around," said Baron. Ayalon was the only swimmer on both men and women's teams past or present to be recognized as one of the top 50 swimmers in ACC history.

Baron attributed the omissions of other notable Tech swimmers including diver Brandon Long and swimmer Tim Howard to the vast wealth of great swimmers in the ACC's history.

Besides excelling in the water, Ayalon has successfully balanced academics with his hectic practice schedule.

"The coaches always tell us that academics come first and swimming comes second. I try to give the same attention to both. I don't think anything suffers from it. I devote myself fully to both of them and I do well in both I guess. One doesn't come instead of the other for me, it's both. My sleep gets hurt but that's life," said Ayalon.

He has earned Academic All-American status, Dean’s list honors, and Faculty Honors. He currently maintains a 3.8 gpa in Electrical Engineering despite a workout schedule during the season that includes twenty hours in the pool a week and weight lifting. After graduation, he plans to attend graduate school.

Ayalon wants to see the men’s team beat their record finish of 27th in the NCAA this season and for the women’s team to move up in the ACC. Both teams will face six out of seven opponents in the ACC. The main goal will be to beat No.1 Virginia and defeat the rest of the team’s conference opponents.

"It's going to be hard. Not a lot of people believed last year that we could get 2nd but we gave everything we had and did it," said Ayalon. The dual meet season begins on October 25th against Emory at Emory.
Battle-tested Suggs comes back home to Georgia Tech

A near-death experience, school transfer and hard-hitting opponents haven’t stopped the new Tech quarterback from becoming an impact both on and off the playing field.

Throughout the course of his relatively brief, yet accomplished life, Georgia Tech quarterback A.J. Suggs has dealt with his fair share of adversity. Both on the field and off, Suggs has consistently hurdles daunting obstacles, some more momentous than others in the grand scheme of things.

Suggs has found himself back home at Georgia Tech, a place he adored throughout his childhood. Whether fighting for his team on the football field, or fighting outright for his life, Suggs has truly come full circle.

Suggs has been a starting quarterback as a freshman at McEachern High, as well as at the University of Tennessee in the pressure-cooker that is the Southeastern Conference.

So why is it that Suggs can remain so calm in the huddle and so poised in front of 100,000 chaotic fans primed to turn on him with just one errant pass? Inquirers need look no further than a frightening incident Suggs overcame at just seven years of age.

As a child growing up in nearby Powder Springs, Georgia, Suggs learned an early life lesson. In a classic scenario of being in the wrong place at the wrong time, a young Suggs was run over by a trailer loaded down with approximately one ton of hay bails.

His frail bones were pinned between piercing metal and the earth, a terrifying situation for an individual of any age to find him or herself in.

Before Suggs was pried out, the gigantic, heavy apparatus came within inches of crushing his rib cage, which would have most likely resulted in fatality.

So forgive Suggs if fickle fans or 250 lb. defenders do not easily ratify him. He has a perspective on life differing from that of anyone who has never seen their life flash before their eyes.

“I feel very fortunate to be where I am today doing what I am doing,” said Suggs.

A two-sport star at Georgia high school powerhouse McEachern High School, Suggs was rated amongst the best prep quarterbacks in the country in his senior season of 1998. After Suggs led the Indians to the AAAA State Championship Game, season Suggs was pulled in favor of fellow freshman Casey Clausen, and the rest is history. Suggs is a competitor, a warrior, a survivor. Sitting on the bench was no place for him.

Following the 2000 season, Suggs met with Tennessee coach Phillip Fulmer and expressed his intention to come home and transfer to Georgia Tech. Fulmer wished Suggs well, and the Yellow Jackets accepted him with open arms.

Per NCAA transfer rules, Suggs was forced to sit out the entire season last year and could not even stand on the sidelines during the game. Suggs described the transition period as “an extremely difficult time” for him.

In practice, Suggs apprenticed under former star quarterback George Godsey, an apprenticeship that Suggs feels was very beneficial.

In Godsey, Suggs has some very big shoes to fill—don’t expect him to shy away. In fact, Suggs couldn’t be more anxious.

“Looking back, I do think it was good to have a year to watch an experienced player and learn the offense,” Suggs said. “I feel comfortable with the offense and look forward to getting back on the field.”

“I feel very fortunate to be where I am today doing what I am doing. I feel comfortable with the offense and look forward to getting back on the field”

A.J. Suggs
Tech Quarterback

A near-death experience, school transfer and hard-hitting opponents haven’t stopped the new Tech quarterback from becoming an impact both on and off the playing field.

Crossword Puzzle Answers

From Page 25

A F R I C A  B A S E  A L G A L
S O U D A N  O L A V  N O O S E
K R I S P Y  K R E M E  N U R S E
S E N O B E  U N H I N G E N
S T O P  B E S T I E G E R S
P I E C E D  D E L P E T T Y
E C R U  Y O U R  T H O S E  S O N
W I N D  R A C E  S T E A R
C R E M E  L O M E T H I N G
A L  Y O U  S U N K  S A L V O
N E D  B D T  B E E K  E R T
S O U S E  I  P M  C I F T
L S  S I N T H R I N S  S H L E E B L U T
A T L A N T A  S E A L  C M T
E R G O N  B O S T O N  C R E A M
E D U C T  E R I E  U R A N I A
C O N K S  D E F F  T A N T A N

Contributing Writer

By Brian Peck

By Chris Gooley / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

For supplemental coverage online: www.ramblinwreck.com
"Bilbo is too good an athlete to stand on the sideline for the entire season, so we’ll get him into the game somehow."

Chan Gailey
Georgia Tech Head Coach

...smaller player on the Georgia Tech team, but has the opportunity to make some of the biggest plays.

Like the Jackets, Vanderbilt is also breaking in a new coaching staff. Bobby Johnson arrives in Nashville via Furman University, where he compiled an impressive 60-36 record in eight seasons at the Division 1-AA school. The Commodores must replace talented quarterback Greg Zolman, along with four other offensive starters from 2001’s squad.

Eating the loss of Zolman will be senior wideout Dan Stricker. Stricker hauled in 65 receptions last year, amassing 1,079 yards and eight touchdowns.

On the defensive side of the ball, a consistently solid unit under former Vandy coach Woody Widenhofer, the Commodores welcome back seven starters.

Vanderbilt must replace both specialists. The Commodores face the frightening prospect of having two freshmen handling both the place-kicking and punting duties.

Bobby Johnson is a good coach, but it is highly unlikely that he will be able to end Vandy’s 20-year post-season draught in 2002. Vanderbilt is notorious for playing teams tough for a half or three quarters of a game, particularly in the early stages of the season, only to fade near the end.

Look for both teams to struggle early tomorrow offensively, as they search for consistency. However, the Jackets should gradually wear down the Commodores with their superior talent and speed, and pull away in the second half.
Most of the credit for recruiting this class and convincing them to follow through on their commitments to Tech goes to Assistant Coach and Recruiting Coordinator Scott Stricklin. Coach Hall talked about the amazing job pulled off by Stricklin, commenting that he “was relentless all summer with these freshmen. You first see the recruiting class in the fall and feel good, but you realize that you are taking a chance by signing these high profile guys. Then you see them taken high in the draft in June and you think that you will lose a lot of those guys.”

“But Scott deserves a lot of credit for identifying their talent and then getting them here in school at Georgia Tech,” Hall added. “The new stadium has helped tremendously. The idea of getting a degree at Georgia Tech is an insurance policy to these guys that if baseball fails then they will be able to use a Georgia Tech degree to be successful.”

Tech’s core players in the field, at the bat, and on the mound would already have been enough to project another 40-win season and spark talk of a possible return to Omaha. With the high level of talent being mixed in to that core, look for those expectations to go up and include another 50-win season and trips to Omaha becoming a more regular occurrence. Tech has had top-notch talent in the past but has not always been able to translate that talent into success. Hopefully, last season has taught the Jackets that team chemistry and unified focus are critical factors in getting results.

“The year we had last year going to the College World Series definitely helped a lot as these guys saw we had a nucleus of young players returning and they want to try to win a national championship.”

Tech ace Kyle Bakker will soon have some help in the starting rotation. Pitching signee Jason Neighborgall has major league quality talent.

By Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

“The new stadium has helped.”

Danny Hall
Head Coach, Tech Baseball

By Ed Abel / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Tech ace Kyle Bakker will soon have some help in the starting rotation. Pitching signee Jason Neighborgall has major league quality talent.