Tech taking NIT tourney trip

By Al Przygocki
Senior Staff Writer

A sparse crowd of 5,000 turned out on a rainy night to see if the cozy confines of Alexander Memorial Coliseum would provide a much-needed spark as Tech began its NIT campaign.

They were also wondering how the Jackets would respond after losing in the first round of the ACC tournament.

Behind 18 points from Chris Bosh and a renewed attention to defense, the Yellow Jackets answered all questions with a resounding 72-58 victory over Ohio State.

Tech improved to 15-14 and will play the winner of the Iowa-Iowa State match-up. That second round game will be played either Monday or Tuesday with the site to be announced.

B.J. Elder threw in 12 points in a 72-58 trouncing of Ohio State Wednesday night.

For the second time in school history and the first time since the 1993 season, the Lady Jackets will be participating in the NCAA Tournament.

The team will be traveling to West Lafayette, IN as the No. 10 seed in the East Regional.

The Yellow Jackets (20-10, 8-8 ACC) will play No. 7 seed Virginia Tech (21-9). If the Lady Jackets make it past Virginia Tech, they will take on the winner of the Purdue-Vanderbilt game.

“This will be a great challenge for our team and I know that they have a great program and we are really looking forward to playing them,” said Tech head coach Agnus Berenato about Virginia Tech.

The only other time Tech made the NCAA tournament was the last time it served as the host of the Women’s Final Four in 1993.

Certain teams are used to going every year. We’re trying to become one of those teams,” senior center Sonja Malloy said. “But to actually get there was an uphill battle the whole way, and it’s been exciting.”

The Lady Jackets received the NCAA bid because of their second 20-win season in school history, an 8-8 ACC record, a win over Georgia Tech and the first time in the league’s history and the first time since the 1993 season that Tech has been invited to the Women’s National Invitation Tournament.

“This is a great statement for our program and where we are at right now,” said Tech head coach Agnus Berenato.

Lady Jackets invited to dance for second time

By Katie Neal
Sports Editor

The women’s team will look to tie for fourth place with FSU and Maryland and extend its six-match unbeaten streak when they host Big 10 foe Minnesota at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday.

This marks the fourth year in a row that Tech has been invited to the Women’s National Invitation Tournament.

“I think that’s been our No. 1 goal the whole year,” Tech coach Agnus Berenato said. “Not necessarily winning a certain number of games. The ACC tournament has been our goal, and we accomplished our goal. Now we just have to sit down and re-set our goals.”

“This marks the fourth year in a row that Tech has been invited to post-seasonal play. Tech was invited to the Women’s National Invitation Tournament in each of the past three seasons, falling to Miami in the first round a year ago.

“This is a great statement for our program and where we are at right now,” said Tech head coach Agnus Berenato.

“I think it’s great for the players and our staff.”

“We need to tie for fourth place with FSU and Maryland and extend its six-match unbeaten streak when they host Big 10 foe Minnesota at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Tech Head Coach

Rain stalls UGA tennis match for third straight time

The women’s tennis match between Georgia Tech and Georgia was called off for the third time due to rain on Wednesday at the Dan Magill Tennis Center in Athens, Ga. The match, which was originally scheduled for Feb. 22, had already been postponed twice and now will not be made up due to scheduling conflicts between the two schools for the remainder of the season.

The women’s team will look to extend its six-match unbeaten streak when they host Big 10 foe Minnesota at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Chris Bosh named ACC Rookie of the Year

Tech’s 6-foot-10 power forward Chris Bosh became the tenth Yellow Jacket to earn ACC Rookie of the Year this past week. Bosh, a second-team All-ACC selection, was the only freshman named to the first or second teams.

He ranked eighth in conference scoring this year with 15.4 points per game and leads the ACC with a 55.8 field goal percentage and 2.11 blocked shots per game. He ranked second in the league with 8.9 rebounds per game and has been named to the league’s all-defensive and all-rookie teams.

Other Tech ACC Rookie of the Year winners include Mark Price, Bruce DRM, Tim Cunningham, Tom Hammonds, Dennis Scott, Kenny Anderson, Martice Moore, Stephen Marbury and, just last year, Ed Nelson. Duke’s J.J. Redick finished second.

NCAA could postpone tourney if war breaks out

The NCAA will consider postponing games in the men’s and women’s basketball tournaments and other national championships if war with Iraq begins this week.

President Myles Brand acknowledged Monday that the NCAA was checking the availability of arenas and hotels for the days after first and second round games are completed. The primary consideration, Brand said, would be the safety of the athletes and fans. He also said there has been no determination about changes in television coverage.

CBS holds the rights to the men’s tournament, but the network, which is owned by Viacom, has discussed switching the games to ESPN if CBS needs more air time for war coverage. ESPN and ESPN2 already are scheduled to show the women’s tournament.

NC State’s Kyle Singler and Ryan Anderson are expected to return to practice this week after missing a couple of weeks due to injuries.

Junior power forward Fallon Stokes was named as a third team All-ACC member and will help lead the Lady Jackets against Virginia Tech.

This is a great statement for our program and where we are at right now.

Agnus Berenato

Tech Head Coach

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National ranking of the Georgia Tech women’s track and field team in the Trackshark Women’s Top 25 Final Indoor Poll which was released Monday. The Jackets were one of only two Atlantic Coast Conference teams to make the top-25 list. North Carolina was ranked fifth.

68

The closing round score by senior Troy Matteson at the Morris Williams Intercollegiate in Austin, TX. With Matteson’s performance, the Georgia Tech golf team improved its standing by six spots to finish in eighth. The 54-hole tournament was contested at the par-72, 6,906-yard Austin Country Club.

11

Number of years that Georgia Tech has hosted the annual Buzz Classic that will be held this weekend. The Lady Jackets will be playing at Marietta’s Al Bishop Softball Complex. The Jackets opened the season against Maryland and Lipscomb Friday before closing pool play Saturday versus Troy State and Radford.

10

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 qualified entries. The winner will receive a pair of tickets to an Atlanta Thrashers home game, where admission is always $8 for a seat in the $30 section with a student ID.

Visit www.atlantathrashers.com for more info on college nights.

on the deck

Event Date

WS at NCAA Champs 3/21-22
MT vs. Indiana 3/21
WT vs. Minnesota 3/21
SB vs. Maryland 3/21
SB vs. Lipscomb 3/21
T at Alabama Relays 3/22-23
WS vs. Virginia Tech 3/22
MT - Men’s Tennis
WS - Women’s Swimming
SB - Softball, WT - Women’s Tennis
BSB - Baseball, T - Track
WS- Women’s Swimming

Junior power forward Fallon Stokes was named as a third team All-ACC member and will help lead the Lady Jackets against Virginia Tech.
Is anyone picking a team not called the Wildcats? Me neither.

By John Parsons
Senior Staff Writer

I’ll give you three guesses what this column is about. OK, you already know I’m writing about the NCAA Tournament. Before I get to that, there is one order of business to take care of...

If you are reading this while tournament games are on, for heaven’s sake, PUT DOWN THE PAPER AND WATCH THE TOURNAMENT. I realize I’m starting to make a habit of discouraging people from reading my column, but I couldn’t sleep at night if I thought my ramblings were distracting sports fans from more important things.

Now on to my bracket. Not that I am qualified to write on this, but it has never stopped me before. Keep in mind that I’m writing this before the tournament starts, so this could be shot to hell by the time you read it (this fact also explains the future tense references to some games that have already been played).

I’ll start with the Midwest, since it seems to be the easiest, right? Is there anyone that doesn’t have Kentucky in the Final Four? Didn’t think so. I like Pitt, Mizzou, and Dayton as the other pod winners here.

I can usually count on someone upsetting Pitt to help my bracket, but with the unimpressive Indiana and the undeserving ‘Bama playing the 7-10 game, I see Pitt having an easy route to the Sweet 16. Then Mizzou will knock them off.

Then there’s the loaded West. I still like Arizona. Everyone is talking about how West is so loaded you can’t count on them. OK, but they’re still a much better team than anyone else in the West. Just because there are a lot of good teams, it doesn’t make it smart not to pick the best one. As for the Sweet 16 teams here, I think the top four seeds here are clearly a cut above the rest of the teams. So I don’t think there will be any major upsets here, unless Wisconsin-Milwaukee knocks off Notre Dame for the right to lose to Illinois.

Now for the region with, I think, the most undeserving top seed, the South. Here I’d pick Texas to go down around the Sweet 16. It’s tricky because I really want to pick BYU in the Sweet 16 for giggles. Can I pick Dayton to win the South, even though they’re in the Midwest?

Maryland has become a trendy Final Four pick because of the weak top seeds, and well, I agree. I wrote Maryland into my Final Four Sunday evening right after the bracket was revealed.

Finally, let’s break down the East, where Oklahoma and Wake are the top seeds. For future reference whenever I say anything about the Sooners in the tournament, bet against it. I’m serious, whatever I say Oklahoma will do, they do something completely different.

This year I hedged my bets and put them down for getting knocked off in the Sweet 16 by Louisville. This of course means that they either became the first one seed to go down in the first round yesterday, or they’re on their way to the Final Four. As for the East winner, Syracuse is the trendy pick, but I can’t bring myself to hitch my wagon to a team that will live and die by a freshman; I don’t care what he can do. So here I make my sleeper pick and take Louisville to come out of the East.

My champion for the tournament is Arizona. I’d like them to beat Kentucky in the ‘real championship’ semifinal. Then I’ll take Louisville over Maryland. Then Arizona will win impressively in the final and I’ll rake in the cash from all my pools before waking up and seeing all the red lines through my bracket.
Adios Ohio

Ohio State came in with a 10-1 record and eight straight wins against the Yellow Jackets. The Buckeyes had won eight straight over Georgia Tech, their last matchup coming in the second round of the 1991 NCAA tournament, when Ohio State won 65-61. After an up and down season highlighted by a run to the Big 10 title game, Ohio State ended its season with a 17-15 record.

In Wednesday night’s first-round victory, B. J. Elder chipped in 12 points and Marvin Lewis added 11 to the balanced offensive attack that saw all eight Jackets in action score at least four points. Freshman forward Theodis Tarver made his first career start in place of Luke Schenscher and provided quite a spark. Tarver scored nine points, but it was his defense, highlighted by three blocks and a steal, that really provided a lift.

Head Coach Paul Hewitt was very pleased with Tarver’s play, commenting “He stepped up and played a very nice basketball game tonight. He was active. The thing I’ve been on him about and the reason that he didn’t play much early in the year is because he would turn the ball over a lot.”

“I thought this might be his fourth game in a row without a turnover,” Hewitt said of Tarver. “He’s playing stronger with the basketball, he’s blocking shots, and he’s starting to show some of the ability we saw when we recruited him.”

Tech used its pressing defense to generate a few easy baskets, but the real impact was in creating a faster tempo and wearing down Buckeye star guard Brent Darby.

After playing four games in four days over the weekend and then traveling to Atlanta, the Buckeyes were playing on tired legs and the defensive pressure didn’t make it any easier on them. Darby took himself out of the game with what appeared to be a cramped leg with less than ten minutes to play. He returned to action but wasn’t quite as agile again.

Ohio State Head coach Jim O’Brien commented on the style of play saying, “I thought our kids played very, very hard. We just ran out of gas. We just didn’t have enough. That team was very, very athletic and they just wore us down.”

“We had a really good effort, and with about eight or nine minutes to go we were still in the hunt,” O’Brien said. “Brent got a cramp and had to come out for a while and foul trouble hurt us. We just lost to a better team tonight.”

Although the tendency has been more pronounced on the road than at home, one thing that has plagued the young Georgia Tech squad all season has been an inability to close out games. That trend reversed itself in this game. The Yellow Jackets took full advantage of the situation and over an eight minute span turned a one-point game into 66-51 blowout with an 18-4 run.

Coach Hewitt explained the difference by saying, “I thought tonight was the best we’ve executed in the last five to eight minutes of a game.”

“Tech Head Coach Paul Hewitt
“Jim O’Brien Ohio State Head Coach...
Post-season looks positive for swim teams

By Kimberly Rieck
Senior Staff Writer

The dual meet season may be over, but many on the Yellow Jacket swimming and diving teams have qualified for post-season championships and meets.

The first was last week’s NCAA Zone B Diving Championships at Auburn’s James E. Martin Aquatic Center, a qualifier for the NCAA Championships.

Paul McCarty led the team with a career-best fifteenth place finish in the men’s one-meter board with 268.25 points. On the three-meter board, McCarty placed seventeenth. He barely missed going to the championships in the one-meter board because only the top 13 were selected for the competition.

“Paul dove very well and it was a very tough competition,” said Coach Seth Baron. “I think Ames and Paul were pleased with the way they performed.”

The freshman divers Laurissa Prystaj and Matt Anderson also performed well in the competition. Prystaj was thirty-sixth on the one-meter board with a score of 205.10 while Anderson placed twenty-third in the event.

“I think Matt’s really picked up a lot this year with regards to experience at this level of competition. I think he’s going to be a good diver in the years to come for us,” said Baron. “And Laurissa is getting better and better. The women’s competition in this conference is very tough. It’s a very competitive conference for diving on the women and she is getting in there and doing her best on a meet by meet basis.”

On the women’s side, Cara DeViney was selected as an alternate for this weekend’s NCAA Championships in the 400 IM.

However, according to Coach Seth Baron, typically only one or two alternates are usually needed for the meet, so DeViney will instead focus on competing in next month’s U.S. Nationals.

The U.S. Nationals will be held at the Indiana University Natatorium in Indianapolis April 1-4. DeViney will join four of her female teammates and ten of her male teammates there as well.

Next week, two male swimmers will get the chance to compete at the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships at the University of Texas on March 27. While there were ten swimmers on the men’s team that had NCAA B qualifying times, only two were ultimately selected for the competitive meet: Shilo Ayalon and Sam Morgan.

Other teammates were close to qualifying. Eduardo Oliver had earned a lifetime best time in the 1650 free at the ACC Championship meet. Oliver will be joining DeViney and his teammates at the U.S. Nationals instead.

In Austin, the prospect for a top 25 finish this year looks likely for the men’s team. Ayalon has been selected to compete in 1650 yard freestyle, 500 yard freestyle, and the 400 IM. He is seeded second in the 1650, eleventh in the 500, and fifteenth in the 400.

“It’s very exciting for this team for Shilo to be ranked second going into the competition,” said Baron.

Last year the senior had a career-best finish of eighth in the 1650, which earned him NCAA All-American status and led to the team’s 27 finish for the year.

This year Ayalon is only seeded behind USC’s Eric Vendt, an Olympic medalist and currently one of the top five distance swimmers in the world.

However, according to Baron, Ayalon will be up for the challenge of repeating or bettering his finish from last year.

“Shilo’s never shyed away from competition,” said Baron.

In addition, Baron said it will be valuable experience for Ayalon to face the best in the world at next week’s meet because he will be competing against them again at this year’s World Championships and as a competitor in next year’s Summer Olympics for Israel.

Besides qualifying for post-season competitions, the Yellow Jacker men’s and women’s swim teams have also earned academic honors. Both teams were named Academic All-American teams for Fall 2002.

The men’s overall GPA of 3.29 is the fifth highest in the nation and the highest in the ACC. The women posted an overall GPA of 3.13 to rank forty in the nation. Individual Academic All-American honors will be chosen later.

Sam Morgan, a freshman distance swimmer, was one of only two who were ultimately selected for the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships at Texas. Morgan was a state champion swimmer in high school.

By Kimberly Rieck
Senior Staff Writer
By Joseph Jeong
Staff Writer

Beesball sets record, Kent State ends 17-win streak

It was a bittersweet weekend for Tech baseball. This year’s squad was able to better the previous best start to a season by one game, but they were unable to maintain their unbeaten record as they lost their last game to Kent State.

They also fell to Auburn 7-5 on Tuesday as the visitors exacted their revenge from last week.

In the first game, it seemed as if Tech gave up on their run at history, as they fell behind 4-1 to Kent State early, with all four runs unearned. A rally in the bottom of the eighth scored three runs for the home team and tied the score.

Jeremy Slayden finally won the game for Tech when he hit a clutch two-out single to drive in the winning run.

Tech ace Kyle Bakker failed to win despite pitching seven strong innings, allowing no earned runs and striking out eight. Closer Jeff Watchko picked up the win for pitching a shutout ninth.

In the record breaking second game, there were less dramatics, but it was still a close game.

Kent State drew first blood with a run in the third, but Tech went back ahead when the Jackets benefited from two unearned runs in the fourth.

Tech finally put the game out of reach and when they doubled that score in the sixth. Aaron Walker picked up the win in his first career start for the Jackets.

Kent State finally got a break in the last game of the series when they edged Tech out 5-3 and ended Tech’s hope of matching or bettering the school record win streak of 20.

To add insult to injury, Auburn came to town and avenged their loss from last week by beating Tech 7-5. Chris Goodman took the loss for Tech and Andy Sonnanstine got the win for Auburn.

Tech lost despite outhitting Auburn 12 to 8 and committing only one error to their four. Micah Owings got the loss for Tech and Auburn’s LeValle Speigner picked up the win.

Tech will open up its conference schedule with Maryland this weekend and then play Mercer on Tuesday before going on a two week road trip to Miami and Chapel Hill.