Softball from page 28

28 2/3 straight innings and is now eighth all-time in the NCAA with 1,244 career strikeouts.

Salingear was named the National Player of the Week for her incredible work against FSU, which included a no-hitter and a save on Saturday and a one-hitter on Sunday. This is the first time a Tech player has been honored with the award.

“I am most proud of her composure. Early in the season she got some bad calls and allowed those things to affect her concentration but within last two or three weeks she has put all those things behind her and has stayed really composed. I don’t think there is more anyone can do than what she is doing now,” Earleywine said.

The remaining season for Tech includes regular season conference games, game against non-conference opponents including in-state rival Georgia and the ACC Tournament.

“It is starting to get more serious as stakes are getting higher. I just hope that when the game gets big, our better players will rise to top and make big plays,” Earleywine said.

According to Earleywine, although the World Series is still far away but certainly something about which to look forward.

“It’s a hope for sure. We have been to regional for the last few years, so it’s the next step. We don’t talk much about it, but it’s our goal. We focus on our technique, our efforts, our fundamentals and teamwork and then the results will be favorable if you do those things right,” he said.

Crew squads sprint into spring season

By Patrick O’Neal
Assistant Sports Editor

Last week during spring break while most students were relaxing, the Tech crew team was practicing twice a day in preparation for their spring season. Their work paid off as the team competed in the Lanier Sprints at Lake Lanier in Gainesville, Ga.

In the men’s four-man race, Tech entered four teams and took the top three places. “Tech went one, two and three with our heavyweights getting first, lightweights getting second and our second heavyweight boat getting third,” said sophomore crewmate John Kapteyn.

“The women’s boats did pretty well, too, in the fours. The lightweights got second actually racing against heavyweights just to get a little more competition,” Kapteyn said.

The men’s heavyweight eight-man boat also took first in the competition that featured teams from around the country.

The big competition there this year was Colby, a varsity program from Maine. We beat them in all three races we entered,” Kapteyn said.

On March 12 the team traveled to Aiken, S.C. for the SERCS regatta, but the competition was cancelled partway through because of high winds.

“The weather was just horrendous. The wind was gusting up 30 to 35 miles per hour, so it was nearly impossible to actually complete a 2000-meter race,” Kapteyn said.

In the spring season the regattas have 2000-meter races, whereas in the fall season the races are 5000 meters and compete against the clock rather than going head-to-head.

“In the fall you race 5000 meters so it’s a little slower race, and you race against the clock instead of against other boats. Spring races on the other hand are 2000 meters and there are six lanes," Kapteyn said. “It’s a ton more exciting than fall races when you’re going head to head.”

Tomorrow the team competes in Oak Ridge, Tenn. in the John Hunter Regatta, an event that the Tech team actually hosts. The race was hosted last year at Lake Lanier but was moved in part to accommodate for a wider field of competition. “Having it further north you can make the regatta more accessible to teams around the country,” Kapteyn said.

The team will return to Oak Ridge April 15 and 16 for the Southeast Intercollegiate Rowing Association (SIRA) regatta, which is the last scheduled meet before the Dad Vail Regatta in Philadelphia.

The Dad Vails is kind of like our nationals,” said Kapteyn, who noted a personal goal of helping his lightweight four-man team win that meet.

The heavyweight squad has also seen noticeable improvements over last year. “This year relative to last year our heavyweights are a lot more competitive,” Kapteyn said.

“I think team goals overall for the heavyweights is to do real well at the SERCS. I think they also want to try to make the grand finals at Vails.”

Tech crew started in 1985 and has been burgeoning ever since. The club team had more than 100 rowers participate this fall, and they encourage all newcomers to join the club. More information can be found at gtcrow.com.
**Baseball**

from page 28

Tech finished off the sweep with a complete-game bullpen effort in the third game of the series. The Jackets scored six runs in the bottom of the fifth inning after scoring ahead 8-5, but the Wolfpack responded by tying up the game in the top of the sixth inning and scored two more runs to put the Jackets down 10-8 going into the bottom of the ninth. 

Slayden and Kindel led off the inning with singles before Weiters doubled in a run to bring the score to 10-9. Tyler Greene hit a two-RBI RBI double to end the game and give the Jackets the victory.

*To be down on Sunday [against N.C. State] against one of the best closers in the country [and win] was just a big accomplishment by our team.*

Danny Hall

*Baseball head coach*

Tech Bitch Comics Rule!

Maybe you should worry a little less about what your single friend does and a little more about what your boyfriend would think if he knew you were making out with other boys. If you have monstrous body odor, please ride in someone else’s car.

Thank you B.J., Marc, Luke, Will, and Ish! ahhhh...tourney time...no more thursday or friday classes for me, are we clinging tenaciously to my buttoks? An era has passed: Vernard has withdrawn. You kicked me off the list for a fat chick...WTTF? Note to Walter: Saturday WAS the best day of my week. I no longer have L.A.A.B.’s pants!!!

There is a beautiful building in my room at the moment. Whoever knocks down the parking barricade on the SAC deck needs to keep up the good work. What happened last week? Down earlier than possible or 5:00pm Friday. So what’s up with GTCN editing movies? We’re all over the age of 17, and beside’s that Mean Girls is a PG-13 movie.

If you show me a tech student who hasn’t said “I’m” yet then I’ll show you someone who’s full of shit!!

1. Now that “Tech is in the NCAA, can’t you all breathe easy? Debate tonight, racism, Find dismayed lack tolerance both sides. Inconsistency negative, affront estrangement, censorious dastardly, anger... First display passion seen Tech. Dismayed.

Can’t...stop...crocheting...

Take off your hats in the buildings, people.

What kind of wuss can’t be backpacking because his girlfriend isn’t going? Remember when you decided to stay home all weekend and do your chores but you played video games all weekend?

See page 25 for more Slivers
The NCAA tournament, starting with the round of 16, is hosted by UGA, and the Jackets look forward to a possible return trip to Athens. “We’re ranked sixth right now. I think it would be awesome if we could live up to that or even do better,” Miller said.

But the Jackets maintain their strong work ethic despite their previous success. “I think it’s important to stick with what you’re doing and keep working to get better, because if you stop to get better, then you’re going to fall behind everyone else that is working hard.”

“We need to keep pushing forward and not look back at what we have done. We need to keep establishing how good we really are, to keep working to improve our individual games and to keep improving as a team.”

In addition to the NCAA team tournament, there are also national tournaments for individuals and doubles. “If the season were to end today, Miller would qualify as an individual and the pairing of Miller and Silverio would qualify for their team.”

Miller and Silverio continue to build their chemistry together as the tournament moves into the second round. “It’s something you have to work out a little bit because you have to understand what they feel and what their tendencies are,” Miller said. “I think Alison and I are starting to get the hang of that—of complementing each other. I think that’s what important in chemistry—complementing each other with your best shots. They played all year. They space the floor and the defense was able to find their three, so came an open three.”

Offensively, Jarrett Jack led the Jackets by scoring 20 points, dishing out six assists. Seniors Will Bynum and B.J. Elder each contributed with 17 and 15 points respectively, but the rest of the team couldn’t find their shot in the first half.

Schenscher and Jack shot a combined 7-9 from the field during the first half, but the rest of the team contributed a measly 4-14.

Tech’s stifling defense held the Cardinals to only seven points during the first ten minutes of the second half. After struggling with Louisi-ana-Lafayette in the first round, the Cards came out red-hot. They hit their first six shots as well as hitting nine of the first ten from the field.

Just six minutes into the game, the Cardinals lead the Jackets 21-8. By halftime Tech was down 45-30. The Jackets were led by Jack and Luke Schenscher, who had 13 and seven points respectively, but the rest of the team couldn’t find their shot in the first half.

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Tennis moves up ranks to No. 6

By Patrick Ondrea Assistant Sports Editor

The women’s tennis team continued their winning streak when they downed No. 2 UGA 4-3 on March 16. It was a thrilling come from behind victory.

“We lost the doubles point in a close match, and then we went to singles and everyone lost the first set. So we were all down, but we just hung in there and fought, and we ended up winning,” said sophomore ace Alison Silverio. “It was an amazing feeling especially being at their home court and beating them.”

In singles action freshman Kristi Miller beat Shadisha Robinson (2-6, 6-2, 7-6) who was ranked No. 4 in the country as an individual.

“It was amazing to beat such a good player when so much was on the line. I knew if I played well I could beat her, but I didn’t expect it to be me winning the last two points in the tie breaker,” Miller said.

Silverio noted a difference between this year’s and last year’s team.

“Last year we lost a lot of close matches 4-3. We were right there with every team that was ranked ahead of us, but we couldn’t get over that hump. And this year we have fought, and we ended up winning some really tough matches and were able to pull it out. It’s really helped our confidence,” Silverio said.

Tech is now ranked No. 6 in the country, the highest ranking of any tennis team in school history. Miller ranks No. 15 nationally as an individual, and on the doubles side Miller and Silverio rank No. 16 in the nation for doubles.

But Miller doesn’t let the rankings go to her head. “I think about rankings only a little bit. There are a lot of good players out there, and especially when you are playing at the No. 1 position, everyone you’re going to play is strong. You have to be ready for a good match no matter what.”

The women’s team has six matches left this season—all of them against ACC foes—and currently stands on top of the ACC with a conference record of 4-0.

“Our goal is to win an ACC championship this year, either the season record or the ACC tournament which is coming up in three weeks,” Miller said. “We’ve got some of the (better ACC) teams coming up. I think that’s doable for us if we all play as a team and play well on those days.”

The last three matches of the season are against No. 11 Miami, No. 10 Duke and No. 16 North Carolina.

“They are going to be very exciting matches and some good tennis,” Miller said.

A strong finish to the season would also put the team in good standing for the NCAA tournament. The top 16 of the 64 teams in the NCAA tournament get home-court advantage for the first two rounds.

“That was one of our goals we set at the beginning of this season—to be a top 16 team so we could host,” Silverio said.

See Tennis, page 25

Neighorgall regains control on mound

By Michael Clarke Senator Staff Writer

After a tough season last year, Jason Neighborgall has rebounded this season to become the ace of the staff for Tech’s baseball team.

Neighborgall was forced to work some of his mechanics as well as work on improving his confidence to be able to go back on the mound and be the effective pitcher that he was recruited to be.

“I worked really hard on my mechanics,” Neighborgall said. “Once I started throwing a lot more strikes, my confidence went back up. That’s pretty much what happened. I’m really confident right now, and I’m feeling good.”

With the struggles that he faced last season, Neighborgall spent a lot of time on the bench during the second half of the season, and he had to reflect on what was going wrong.

“It was definitely pretty tough for me to go out there (last season) and not really know what was going on,” Neighborgall said. “When I couldn’t get it done out there, I knew I wasn’t going to play that much. It was tough for me to sit on the bench and not play, but right now, I’m looking forward to my next start and competing.”

This season Neighborgall has been instructed to go straight for the hit, without overthinking the hit, I’d rather do than give up a walk. I learned a lot from last year and am using it as a learning experience and something I can build on. Last year I worried about a lot of things that I couldn’t control. Now, I’m just saying to myself, I’m going to throw it in there and throw a lot of strikes. I guess it’s just the measurability. I try to be a lot more aggressive. My confidence has gone up, so I feel a lot more confident in myself to throw it in there and throw strikes.”

After having several family members attend Duke, Neighborgall’s commitment to Tech was a bit of a surprise to some. His father was a quarterback at Duke, and his grandfather on his mother’s side...
Baseball vaults to No. 1 in country

By Michael Clarke
Senior Staff Writer

The No. 1 baseball team (21-3, 11-1 ACC) went 4-3 in action over Spring break. The Jackets extended their win streak over ACC foes to 25 after sweeping N.C. State, before having their streak snapped by No. 12 University of Miami. Tech rebounded to take the remaining two games of the series in Coral Gables.

The Jackets have improved in the polls after a strong first half of the season. Tech is currently ranked No. 1 in the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association Poll as well as the Collegiate Baseball Poll. The Jackets are ranked No. 3 by Baseball America and No. 4 by the Coaches’ Poll.

The opening series of the break with N.C. State was the eighth consecutive sweep of an ACC opponent.

The Jackets won the opening game of the series 9-5. Tech had a 3-2 lead going into the bottom of the seventh inning before the bats woke up and the team scored two runs in that inning and four more in the eighth.

The Jackets won the second game behind the strong arm of Lee Hyde, who worked a career high seven scoreless innings and gave up only four hits and two walks while striking out six.

Hyde was given a four run lead in the first three innings of work, but the Jackets missed a few key opportunities to blow open the game early.

Jeremy Slayden had an RBI single to drive in the first run of the inning, but Jeff Kindel ended the first inning by grounding into a double play with the bases loaded.

The Jackets put one more on the board in the second, and Kindel made up for hitting into the double play with a two-run homer in the bottom of the third inning.

“Getting blown out on Friday night like we did and then bouncing back to win the series [against Miami] shows a lot of character from our guys.”

Danny Hall
Baseball head coach

Softball sweeps perennial power FSU

By Lokesh Padhye
Contributing Writer

Tech softball is rolling and Jessica Sallinger is the star of the show. The No. 21 Jackets swept No. 24 Florida State last weekend to progress to 32-7 overall and 5-1 in the ACC.

The Jackets won the first two games against FSU, 2-0 and 3-1, last Saturday before blanking the Seminoles 5-0 on Sunday at Glenn Field.

Tech swept the Seminoles for the first time since the 2000 season and in the process snapped a nine-game losing streak against FSU.

The Seminoles have been the dominant team of the ACC and although the games against FSU count the same as any other contest in the standings, the team was especially excited about topping Florida State.

“Girls played really well, we had to get this monkey off our back against FSU and I am pleased with the way we played,” Head Coach Ehren Earleywine said.

Tech started the 2005 season with a school record 13 straight wins before slipping to a series of defeats in the Leadoff Classic in Columbus, Ga., when Tech lost four consecutive games in the last week of February including losses to Michigan and Southern Illinois.

“We were very much geared up when we got beaten [by Michigan], the girls just got shut off during the rest of the tournament. What they forgot was that championships are not won in February. We should learn to put losses behind us and move on,” Earleywine said.

Since then Tech is 20-3 with series wins over North Carolina and Florida State and a first-place finish at the UCF Softball Invitational in Orlando, Fla.

“We met most of our goals that we set at press season. There are some things I would like to see the team improve on but there are other things that have been exciting and surprising this season,” Earleywine said.

One such exciting but not surprising thing is the pitching of Jessica Sallinger. Sallinger finished with her 11th complete-game shutout of the season last weekend and has not allowed an earned run in 45 2/3 innings pitched. The Kennesaw, Ga. native has not allowed a run in three innings in three straight games against the Seminoles.