Cricket Club looks forward to new season

By Sayyag Mady

The Georgia Tech Cricket Club got a boost last year when GTCN broadcast the Cricket World Cup. The broadcast raised awareness of the sport and breathed new life into its popularity at Tech. But to most Tech students, cricket is still a mystery, a warped form of baseball. So before proceeding, a short description of the game and its rules is in order.

Cricket is a team sport for two teams of 11 players each. A formal game of cricket can last either an afternoon or several days. Although the game and its rules is in order. the game play and rules are very different, the basic concept of cricket is similar to that of baseball.

Teams bat in successive innings and attempt to score runs, while the opposing team fields and attempts to bring an end to the batting team’s innings. After each team has batted an equal number of innings (either one or two, depending on conditions chosen before the game), the team with the most runs wins.

The ball used is a hard, cork and string ball, covered with leather. It is a bit like a baseball (in size and hardness), but the leather covering is thicker and joined in two hemispheres, not in a tennis ball pattern. The bat used has a blade made of wood, not in a tennis ball pattern. It is thicker and joined in two hemispheres, not in a tennis ball pattern. The ball used is a hard, cork and string ball, covered with leather. It is a bit like a baseball (in size and hardness), but the leather covering is thicker and joined in two hemispheres, not in a tennis ball pattern. The bat used has a blade made of wood, not in a tennis ball pattern. It is thicker and joined in two hemispheres, not in a tennis ball pattern.

When struck by the ball, a cricket field is a roughly elliptical area of flat grass, ranging in size from about 90 to 150 meters (100-300 yards) across, bounded by an obvious fence or other marker. In the center of the field, and usually aligned along the long axis of the ellipse, is the pitch, a carefully prepared rectangle of closely mown and rolled grass over hard packed earth.

The order in which the teams bat is determined by a coin toss. The captain of the side winning the toss may elect to bat or field first. All eleven players of the fielding team go out to field, two players of the batting team go out to bat. The roles of the teams then swap, and the team which fielded first gets to bat through an innings. When both teams have completed the agreed number of innings, the team which has scored the most runs wins.

“Cricket is played in two very distinct forms. The first is limited duration, in which a specific number of hours of playing time are allocated and each team plays two innings. The second is limited overs, in which each team plays one innings of a pre-determined number of overs. The International Cricket Council oversees all international cricket world-wide. Full members play Test matches. They are currently: Australia, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, West Indies, Zimbabwe and Bangladesh. Associate members take part in the ICC Trophy. The top teams in this competition also compete in the World Cup.

Cricket has been played in the U.S. for several decades, and is now played in all 50 states with the major cricket centers in New York, New Jersey, California, Florida, Chicago and Texas. Currently there are 29 established leagues, 500 clubs and over 10,000 players. A national youth program was recently established. Cricket is being played mainly in public parks. There are approximately 200 pitches, most are mat wickets, a few are astro-turf and Southern California has four natural turf wickets. Cricket is still very much an amateur sport in the U.S. Tech, though, hosts a significant minority of international students from test playing nations. Around five years ago some of them got together and started the Cricket Club.

The idea behind the formation of the club was to make the international students feel more at home and at the same time, teach and familiarize local students with the game. The club started by hosting monthly games with their counter parts in UGA. After the first year, the membership of the club grew enough to form a team to play in the Atlanta Georgia Cricket League.

Although the Tech team hasn’t won any league titles yet, they have performed well against most recognized teams. Ahmad Mazhar, GTCC president who has been a member of GTCC since he was a freshman, is excited about the prospects of the team. “We have a good chance of winning most of our games this season. However, it would be nice to have more people join the Cricket Club and to have a larger pool of players to choose from.”

“Most of our club members are international students, but we would like to be more diverse and get members from all countries to enjoy cricket just like we do,” Mazhar said.

“College makes a guy mature more, instead of skipping college for the pros, and it allows a guy to get a base of being out on their own instead of having to be responsible. You have a budget and things to deal with rather than a guy coming out of high school with a ton of money and blowing it right away,” Varitek said.

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LEON THOMAS
Junior
Wide Receiver - Football

This junior from College Park, Georgia is expected to compete for a starting berth this season. He has played primarily in three-wide receiver sets. This wide receiver is 6-0 and weighs 195 pounds. He was fifth on the team in receptions with 10 for 101 yards and one touchdown.

In high school, Thomas was named one of the top 50 players in Georgia by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. He was also named to Max Emfinger's Super 70 in Georgia and Border Wars Top 100 in the south. He played quarterback as a senior at Bancker High and accounted for 1,686 yards and 20 touchdowns rushing and passing. He caught 21 passes for 876 yards as a junior.

ANDY THOMSON
Rising Senior
Punter - Football

This 5-11, 180-pound rising senior from Coral Springs, Florida took over the starting position last season. Thomson is a left-footed punter and joined the program as a walk-on in 2002. He has punted in seven games, over the starting position last season. Thomson is a left-footed punter and 20 touchdowns rushing and passing. He caught 21 passes for 876 yards as a junior.

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her second national title in as many years in the women's high jump while Amandi Rhett finished ninth in the 200 meters. The women's 4x100-meter relay team finished an all-time best sixth.

Softball

Tech's team reached the finals of the ACC tournament where they lost to Florida State. In the NCAA Championships, Tech finished third at the Athens Regional and ended the season with a 47-19 record, finishing their second-best season ever. Junior Jessica Sallinger finished the season with pitching records in strikeouts per game, wins and ERA and also started the College All-Stars team against Team USA. The Jackets also moved up to No. 22 in the NFCA poll after being unranked and finished No. 23 in the ESPN.com poll.

Volleyball

The volleyball team had a banner season with a 34-4 record and reached the Elite Eight in the NCAA tournament. They also reached the finals of the ACC tournament before losing out to Maryland. The 49'99 winning record was the best in school history and included a record 23 straight season-opening wins. They ended the season ranked No. 8 in the final USA Today/AVCA Coaches Poll, the highest ranking in school history and for any ACC school.

Golf

Chan Wongluekiet shot a final-round 71, and Mike Barbosa added a 72 Friday to help Tech's sixth-ranked team rally to a fifth-place team finish in the NCAA Men's Golf Championship in early June. Earlier in the season, the golf team had finished third at the ACC championships. This was the golf team's fourth top-five finish in the last five years with this season's finish being more difficult to achieve due to intermittent hard rain and gusty winds on the last day at the NCAA championships.

Tennis

The men's and women's tennis teams earned at-large berths into the NCAA Championships' field of 64. While the men's team lost to SMU, the women's team defeated Alabama in their first match, 4-0, before falling in the Round of 32 to the University of Georgia. Both teams finished with winning records this season as the men concluded the year with a 15-8 record and the women were 12-11. All ACC honorees Scott Schnepp and Lyndsay Sho sho played in the singles with Schnepp making it to the round of 32.

Swimming and diving

Sophomore Sam Morgan became one of the top swimmers and diving athletes to earn All-America honors with a 15th-place finish in the 1500-meter freestyle to lead the men's swimming and diving team to a 35th-place finish at the Men's NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships. Freshman Vesna Stojanovska swam a personal-best time of 2:11.02 in the 200-meter butterfly to finish in 10th place at the Women's NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships. She became Tech's first women's swimming and diving athlete to claim such honors.

Cross-country

Led by an 11th-place finish by Kyle Rabbitt, Tech men's cross country team placed sixth at the ACC championships, that was three spots above last year. Rabbitt later concluded his junior season by finishing 125th out of 254 runners in the NCAA level last year. Rabbitt also concluded his junior season by finishing 125th out of 254 runners in the NCAA Cross Country Championships. Tech did not have any participants at the NCAA championships last year.

The women's team finished eighth in the conference meet. Senior Karie Griffin finished 22nd in the six-kilometer race. At the NCAA Championships, Griffin led the Tech women again in the six-kilometer race by finishing 22nd in 21:41.92 while they had not participated at the NCAA level last year.
In 2004, the men’s basketball team soared to new heights, fighting its way to the NCAA championship game. But while we cheered the team’s successes, the accomplishments of some other sports teams passed with less fanfare. As the baseball season comes to an end, and the football team gears up for another year, we use this opportunity to look back on these achievements.

**Track and field**

The women’s team finished second while the men’s team finished fourth at the outdoor ACC championships as eight Jacket clinched ACC titles. Chaunte Howard in the women’s high jump, Brendon Mahoney in the 800 and 1500 meters, Ashlee Kidd in the 400 meters, Lauren Reimer in the women’s heptathlon, Amandi Rhye in the 110 meters, Marcus Carney in the javelin throw and Zeb Smo in the shot put all won ACC titles.

At the NCAA championships, Mahoney finished 10th in the 1500 meters and Montrell Person finished ninth in the 110-meters hurdles. Chaunte Howard captured her seventh ACC title.

**Tech’s Varitek reflects on lessons learned**

By Michael Clarke sports@technique.gatech.edu

The Boston Red Sox came into town for the Fourth of July weekend to play the Atlanta Braves. The Red Sox featured two former Georgia Tech baseball stars, Nomar Garciaparra and Jason Varitek, making their return to Atlanta.

“It’s fun for me to come back and get a chance to play here. I remember being here as a freshman and sitting behind the dugout when nobody was here,” explained Jason about playing in Atlanta again. Jason Varitek played at Tech from 1991-94, and in that time period the Jackdaws had a 184-76 (.708) record. Varitek holds offensive records, and is the only player in Tech history to have his number (33) retired. He is the career record holder in home runs, RBIs, hits, doubles, total bases, and runs scored, and he holds the record for most walks in a season.

In his time at Tech, he amassed three All-American selections, and he was a member of the 1994 College World Series team that lost to Oklahoma in the championship game. He was also selected as one of the 50 greatest Tech athletes of the 20th century.

Varitek played with Nomar Garciaparra in his final three seasons in college, and even when he was called up to the majors at the end of the 1997 season.

“You talk about one of the best in our game, and I’ve had the opportunity to play with him at two different levels,” said Varitek of Garciaparra.

He also credited his parents for a large portion of his success because they “made [him] do everything 110 percent.” Varitek enjoys keeping up with Tech athletics, but “sometimes it’s hard because you have your own things going on and the schedules conflict.”

“I talk to Danny [Hall] and make sure that they are doing alright. I know that they put together a real big string, and that they finally turned it around and played really good baseball. From the day that he got the job, I thought, [Hall] brought a little bit of fire to the program.” He also came to a few of the baseball games last year as well as a basketball game.

Over the years, he has been able to witness the changes that the campus has gone through, and finds it “amazing that ATO lot is gone, all of the housing, the fraternity houses, and where the SAC (now CRC) building is with the huge aquatic center. The constant change makes it such a different view. They are doing as much as they can with a limited amount of space.”

When Jason was at Lake Brantley High School in Florida, he was a third baseman and catcher, but decided that he wanted to come to Tech because they wanted [him] to play catcher, and that was a plus. The fact that I was far enough away from home “because I wanted to get away. The biggest thing was that the school sold itself.”

Not only has he had the fortune to take part in the Georgia vs. Georgia Tech rivalry, but as a Red Sox team member he also participates in the Boston vs. New York rivalry.

This rivalry is considered the most competitive rivalry in professional baseball, but it’s hard for people who are not around that area to comprehend at times. To compare the two, he says to “take the rivalry with UGA and you add a few more years of history, and national media for weeks in advance before, during, and after, then you have a rivalry with the Yankees. Playing actual baseball with my teammates compares more in college to playing with a major league team to me because you have your goals to win. Your goal is to get to the regional, and to win to get to the World Series, and to win your conference tournament. It’s about winning and performance for your school, and that’s what happens at the major league level.”

Jason Varitek explained about the similarities between the college and pro levels.

“My hard time with it when I got into pro ball at the minor league level because for a lot of people it was about themselves and it was about development, which has its benefits, but guys don’t learn how to win. College taught me how to win, and that is an intangible that can never be taken away.”

There are many differences that players have to get accustomed to if they are going to survive the transition from the college game to pro ball.

“You have to be disciplined and doing schoolwork at Tech...it teaches you a lot about yourself.”

Jason Varitek
Boston Red Sox catcher

**Tech finishes 31st in Director’s Cup**

Tech’s athletics program concluded the 2003-04 school year with an all-time best 11th-place finish in the annual NCAA Director’s Cup standings, which measure overall athletic success based on each sport’s finish in the NCAA Championships. Led by Top 10 finishes in four different sports, Tech moved 56.5 points to easily outdistance its previous best showing of 45th place in 1997-98.

Tech finished in the top five in basketball, golf and volleyball.

**Hausman added to men’s tennis staff**

Josh Hausman, formerly a head coach at University of South Carolina-Spartanburg, has added to the Tech tennis coaching staff, Head Coach Kenny Thorne announced Tuesday. At the USC, men’s head coach, Hausman helped the Rifles to No. 7 ranking in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) poll during the 1994 season. The team finished with a 20-5 record and advanced as one of the final two teams in the NCAA tournament.

**Kidd wins at junior championships**

All-American Ashlee Kidd won the 400-meters with a time of 52.91 at the USA Junior National Championships to lead the women’s track and field team on July 26th. Freshman Cristiano Orazio closed our competition for the Tech men’s and women’s track and field teams with a 10th-place finish in the men’s 3,000-Steplechase, posting a time of 9:43.56. Jennifer Sims finished sixth in the women’s 800-meters for Tech with a time of 2:12.41. Kidd will compete for Team USA at the World Junior Championships. In 2003, Ashlee Kidd captured the NCAA title in the shot put, and was the ACC and ACC outdoor champion.

**football game times announced**

Kickoff times for the first three football games of the 2004-05 season have been announced. The season’s opening game against Samford on Saturday, September 4 will kick off at 1 p.m. at Bobby Dodd Stadium. Tech’s next two games are on the road... against Saturday, September 11 game at Clemson, which will kick off at 8 p.m. at Clemson Memorial Stadium and the third at North Carolina on Saturday, September 18 at 6 p.m. at Kenan Memorial Stadium.

**The Green Party**

Tech professors win an award for the invention of environment-friendly industrial processes.

**Spidey Sense**

Toby Maguire and Kirsten Dunst return in the sequel to Spiderman. Does Spidey weave any exciting webs this time?