### Title bound: Tech Baseball begins

**Clark Nelson and Chris Bosh discuss Tech life, playing ball, and that perpetuated question of an NBA possibility**

*By Clark Nelson  Contributing Writer*

If you haven’t noticed a new face walking around campus that almost reaches up to seven-feet, then you must be studying too much or not going to class.

Chris Bosh, a 6-10 freshman forward from Lancaster, Texas, has taken ACC basketball by storm this season. Bosh came to Tech after garnering many high school awards, including Player of the Year by Basketball America as well as being named “Mr. Texas” by Gatorade.

Entering the Wake Forest game, Bosh leads the ACC in field-goal percentage (57.4 percent) and blocked shots (1.95 per game), ranks second in rebounds and ninth in scoring at 15.6 points a game. Bosh, along with teammates Marvin Lewis and B.J. Elder, has combined for 57.9 percent of the Yellow Jackets scoring this season, a total of 44.5 points a game.

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**Talking basketball with Bosh**

**By Clark Nelson  Contributing Writer**

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Bosh Ball

Chris: Just being able to play basketball… playing NCAA basketball it gives you a good feeling. Watching college basketball growing up, looking up to those guys and now being apart of it.

Clark: How has the transition been from high school to college?

Chris: It has been tough. College is a lot more serious and intense than high school basketball. School is a lot harder too; it takes a lot of self-discipline.

Clark: Is there a player that you try to model your game after?

Chris: I would say Kevin Garnett. He is tall and lean just like me, but stronger than people think.

Clark: Do you have a favorite movie?

Chris: Blue Chips with Nick Nolte.

Clark: What are your hobbies?

Chris: Basketball takes a lot of energy and time so sleeping would be one. I like to read and play video games. Normal things that any other college kid would like.

Clark: What makes you just like any other Georgia Tech student?

Chris: I have to study a lot, do well in my classes. Outside of basketball, I am just like any other student.

Clark: If basketball doesn’t work out, what else would you like to pursue?

Chris: I would like to be able to use my management degree, maybe in the real estate field.

Bosh is currently the leading candidate for ACC Freshman of the Year. After already receiving ACC Freshman of the Week on four occasions this season, his chances at garnering the title are looking better and better.

“I think he’s the best freshmen in the ACC, and I don’t think it’s even close,” said ESPN college basketball analyst Jay Bilas.

“He’s not only skilled, but he can play inside or out. He’s got a ton of potential. I think he has a chance to be great.”

Jay Bilas.
ESPN basketball analyst

Tech’s gymnastics teams gather for congratulatory cake after taking first place at the UNC Chapel Hill invitational tournament.

Gymasts take the cake at UNC

By The Gooley / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

“I think he’s the best freshmen in the ACC, and I don’t think it’s even close,” said ESPN college basketball analyst Jay Bilas of Tech’s Chris Bosh.

“He’s a heck of a pro prospect. There’s no question about that,” Coach Paul Hewitt said. “But I don’t think he has given it a whole lot of thought.”

“I’m just enjoying college. When people ask me [about the NBA], I don’t pay much attention,” said Bosh. “I’m just trying to play basketball, that’s all. I’m just trying to play.”

Not that Bosh hasn’t considered the option of the NBA, but he just isn’t paying too much attention to it right now.

“Every player thinks about it,” Bosh said. “Because it’s every player’s dream. I’m not going to lie about that, but, right now, I’m just enjoying college.”

So what happens if the NBA does come knocking on Bosh’s door?

“I think in that case, with any player, you have to sit down with your coach, sit down with your mother and father and look over everything in determining the pros and cons of the situation,” Bosh said.

“Everybody knows (the NBA) is there. If you’re fortunate enough to make it, that’s just a blessing.”
Beesball from page 28

up roles. Rosswell’s Steven Blackwood is the team’s fourth outfielder and should see some time as a DH. Ryan Stanley will be the backup at first base, and Andy Hawranick is an excellent catch-and-throw guy who will be the reserve catcher. Jon Crosby and Ryan Self will add depth to an already solid bullpen.

Pitching
Tech will always be better known for its offense, but the strength of this year’s team is its pitching. Last year’s pitching staff was one of the best, top-to-bottom, in school history. The Jackets had three different pitchers win 10 or more games for only the second time in school history (1987) and the staff set a school record of fewest walks allowed per inning.

Meet the new staff, same as the old staff. The pitchers responsible for all 52 wins and 590.1 of 606.2 total innings return. Tech’s top four starters and nine men who pitched at least 15 innings last year are back. Oh, and the new guys are pretty good, too.

Starters
Coming off a 13-2 season, Kyle Bakker returns to his role as the ace of the staff. The other starters figure to be Chris Goodman, Brian Burks, Kyle Schmidt, and Micah Owings. Aaron Walker and Andrew Krown could break into the starting rotation as both had outstanding off-seasons. Jason Neighborgall is an incredible talent but has yet to put it all together and could propel Tech deep into the postseason if he does.

Bullpen
Head coach Danny Hall and pitching coach Bobby Moranda have talked about using their bullpen in a less traditional way. Jeff Waterko will be used as a relief ace to help the Jackets out of whatever critical situation comes up regardless of the inning. He should once again receive solid setup work from Aaron Walker, Jeff Kicinski, Nick Wagner, and Jordan Crews. Philip Perry will be redshirting this season as he recovers from Tommy John surgery. The pen will also include Andrew Kown, Chandler Miller, John Berthelsen, and the freshmen: Neighborgall, Jon Crosby, Ryan Self, and Jared Hyatt.

Infield
Only one starting infielder returns from last season’s squad. That starter is an All-American. Offensively, the four who moved on may be hard to replace, but defensively this new incarnation will be stronger. Some starting roles will fall to last year’s backups, another will see an old face in a new place, and another will be held by a star freshman.

Catcher
Sophomore Mike Nickeas will be looking to step out of the shadow of Tyler Parker and shake off last season’s offensive woes in the process. Nickeas did an excellent job behind the plate and handled the pitching staff very well, but has yet to tap his offensive potential. Freshman Andy Hawranick is the back-up and is labeled primarily as a catch-and-throw guy whose offense may one day catch up with his defense. Cameron Lane will also see some time behind the plate this season and can play the infield as well.

First Base
Sophomore Clifton Remote will take over Jason Perry’s old stomping grounds and punish right-handed pitching. Micah Owings can not only pitch, but also play a little first base. He will probably see a lot more time at DH however, so look for Ryan Stanley to be Remo’s primary backup.

Second Base
Sophomore Eric Patterson made everybody’s All-America team, was named a team captain, and will be looking to establish himself as one of the premier lead-off men in the nation. Patterson stole 41 bases last year, but after hitting the weight room in the off-season, look for him to add power to his speed game this season. Redshirt freshman Mike Trapani is an outstanding defender and will be Tech’s primary backup in the middle infield.

Shortstop
Freshman Tyler Greene steps into the line of outstanding Tech shortstops as he looks to live up to the number five on his back worn previously by Nomar Garciaparra and Victor Menocal. Right now, he is a defense-first, offense-second player, but looks to the offense to grow over the years.

Third Base
After being the Jackets’ primary backup infielder for the past two seasons, Davis Myers will open the season as the starting third baseman. There was a three-way battle for the job, and Myers got the nod for his defense and speed on the bases. Jake Hall, the more consistent hitter, and Garret Groce, the more consistent overall player, will also see a fair amount of time at the hot corner. Mike Nickeas may also see some time at third on days when Hawranick is catching.

Outfield
The Jackets’ outfield remains intact with the only change being the substitution of a freshman for a sophomore in the role of defensive wiz. On this team, the infield’s job is to get on base and the outfielders are there to bring them home.

Starters
In left field, Matt Murton is one of the top prospects in all of baseball. He hits for average, hits for power and steals bases. His defense is coming along, too. In center field, Brandon Boggs opened his freshman season as the starter and looks ready to hold the job for the entire 2003 campaign. Right fielder Jeremy Slyden had a breakout season last year as a freshman and will be looking to add to his list of honors this season. Jeremy led the squad last year in every power category and also showed off a powerful, accurate arm in throwing out several base runners.

Reserve Outfielders
Stephen Blackwood took Wes Rynders’ old number 26, and will be looking to show the same prowess in tracking down fly balls. Blackwood has showed promise at the plate as well and will split time as the team’s fourth outfielder and occasional DH. Fifth year senior Mathew Swain was named a captain of the squad for his hard-working attitude. Swain will be the team’s fifth outfielder and role model. Garret Groce, who plays everywhere except pitcher and catcher, will see some in the outfield.

Crossword Answers, from page 17

MIST EBB ABET ORB INTO ROADRA GE VOL STARGAZING GATEAU HENNA LAOS MORNIS ER LEEN TAP SLOT ALES ARE N CAR CAKE RACK GE PS REAPER SYRIA CAROUSE SUNSET BOULEVARD PIS SUPS Smeer PLA CID ETTA ANNA REDUCES SEER DOOM IGR ROD FREE UP VAPID BASF SUNNI ATTAIN MOONSTRUCK TEE RAIN DROP IDEE EER TESS TRY CESS
Beyond the White and Gold

This could be the year of Fantasy Baseball

By Al Przygocki
Senior Staff Writer

This is my year. My name will finally grace the Hector Villanueva Cup. This will be a title seven years in the making, the final culmination of years of hard work and a long-term vision.

What am I talking about? Only the premiere competition for baseball lovers and sports geeks, the game of kings: Fantasy Baseball.

In 1980, a collection of professors and professionals with a common love for sports and competitive games met in a New York restaurant called La Rotisserie Francaise. The restaurant no longer exists, but the game they developed lives on and is going strong 23 years later. They called it rotisserie baseball, but more people know it as either roto or fantasy baseball, and now every sport has a fantasy analog for diehard fans and starheads alike.

About 11 years ago, nine Tech students met in the television lounge in Armstrong and started a roto league. The next year, they expanded to add three more members. Four of the original nine and all three of the first wave of expansion are still in the league years later. I’ve been in the league since 1997, and I still feel like the new guy.

It’s a strange game. It’s a mix of baseball knowledge and financial analyses. I liken it to creating stock portfolios and having them duke it out over the six-month season. Each team has the same amount of fake money to spend on filling out their roster.

The roster has defined slots, and the score is kept based on the stats that your players rack up in real games during the season. Since a player can only belong to one team, your job is to compete for players and make the most of your roster.

The best day of my year is auction day. It’s held on the weekend of the Final Four, which is also the last weekend before opening day.

For that one day, we are general managers, stockbrokers, and some-. . .

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that the oldest jokes are the best jokes. We use our own lingo and laugh at things that would take five minutes to explain. I love it.

Our league is the Professional League of Professionalators. That name was a joke from the first auction, but we’ve never gotten around to changing it. I guess it fits. The trophy is the Hector Villanueva Cup, named for the world’s most famous athlete. Actually, it’s named for the only player who was on the roster of the two teams that won the first two titles.

Hector is still playing in Latin America. I dream of having him as a guest of honor for an awards banquet one year. We don’t have a banquet, but if we could get him to come, I think we would arrange one.

The auction is the best day of the year, but I think about my team and my roster almost every day of the year.

We have winter rosters, waiver claims, the only possible challenges for the Hector Villanueva Cup, named for the world’s most famous athlete. Actually, it’s named for the only player who was on the roster of the two teams that won the first two titles.

The rest of the year we are parent lawyers, aerospace engineers, project managers, VP and part owner of a software company, retail workers, computer specialists, and students/sportswriters. We live in Worcester, Louisville, Huntsville, Savannah, Atlanta and other parts unknown.

We come together from all over the eastern seaboard to spend an entire day talking sports, cracking jokes, and jockeying for bargain players.

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We have a keeper league, so we don’t start from scratch every year. We have winter rosters, waiver claims, prospect rosters, and many trades. Every day is a chance to improve your roster or at least obsess over it.

In the gap from the Super Bowl to the Final Four, we spend all of our time doing research and figuring out new strategies. We buy books, magazines, and online subscriptions. We sit with our spreadsheets and try to concoct new strategies or simply fine-tune our old ones. We really like each other, but we really want to win and claim superiority over our fellow geeks, er, I mean experts.

This year, the Bowl Poles will take the Cup, baby! I can dream, can’t I?

Intramural Notebook

with Jack. B. Nimble

Who’s in the playoff hot spot?

It’s time to talk intramural playoffs. All of the regular seasons are winding down and it’s time see who needs to do what to get in. We’ve got NFL-esque scenarios here.

Let’s start with what’s most important, A-League soccer. On the league side, five teams will get in, with Theta Xi, Beta and Lambda Chi having already sewn up playoff berths. For the last two spots, FIFI, Pike, Sigma Chi and TKE all still have a shot.

Here the most interesting scenario probably Sigma Chi’s. Having finished 2-2, they likely need a tie in the FIFI/Pike match and a loss or tie from TKE against Lambda Chi. Nothing is weaker than cheering for a tie.

On the independents side, it looks like anyone not named Red Rockets Too can just go home. The Rockets finished up their regular season this week with a 7-0 thrashing of Redrum to finish 4-0, outscoring their opponents 23-1.

This includes a 4-1 rout of the future champions, Pike/Pike and a loss in the FiJI/Pike match and a loss or tie from TKE against Lambda Chi. Nothing is weaker than cheering for a tie.

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