Buzz vies for nation’s No. 1 mascot

By Finny Turner
Contributing Writer

He’s lovable, mysterious and sweet. He’s our very own Buzz. If anyone has ever attended a Tech sporting event, they know that he is not only a mascot, a cheerleader and an ambassador, but as much a part of Tech tradition as the Tech Tower, Georgia Tech and the Ramblin’ Wreck.

Urban legend says that Buzz showed up in the 1970’s as an unofficial cheerleader for the home football games. Since the students and fans loved Buzz’s antics, the GT cheerleading squad soon adopted him. Today Buzz is actually a member of the cheerleading squad, and even attends a special mascot camp hosted yearly by the National Coaches Association at Myrtle Beach.

“Buzz is very nervous and mischievous. He’d like to be the center of attention,” says the fifth-year senior and third-year Buzz. Because of his popularity, Buzz is called upon for many duties at sports conventions, and official Georgia Tech events such as the annual President’s Dinner. Buzz can also be hired for social gatherings, such as weddings and birthday parties.

Buzz also has the duty to help choose a successor during cheerleading tryouts. It is important for Buzz to live up to the winning tradition that the Yellow Jackets come to expect. Buzz has been named an All-American mascot on numerous occasions.

Number of consecutive seasons that Georgia Tech has captured the Division I team title for Cross Country. The team successfully defended their title last Saturday in the Georgia Intercollegiate Championships.

Number of seconds that Katie Griffin beat her nearest competitor by at the Georgia Intercollegiate Championship. Griffin was the first overall finisher and was named the ACC’s Cross Country Performer of the Week.

Here’s the number...what does it represent?

To enter email the Sports Editor at wwww.atlantathrashers.com with more info on college nights.

The Georgia Tech Hockey Club took a team vote and decided not to compete in the Memorial Health Hockey Tournament this year.

The nationally-ranked volleyball team travels to Clemson to take on the Tigers at Jervey Gym. Friday’s match marks the 55th meeting between the Yellow Jackets and Clemson, with the Tigers holding the edge, 23-11. Tech defeated the Tigers twice last year during the regular season and has won the last four contests dating back to the 2000 season.

The Jackets will be playing without one player, Lynnette Moster, who was injured Saturday against North Carolina. Blair Moon will replace her in the lineup.

Basketball practice starts this weekend

The men’s basketball team opened practice this weekend, beginning with two practices a day until Tuesday. The team had the biggest in-season turnaround in ACC history last season by winning seven of their last eight league games, finished tied for fifth in the conference, and made the NCAA tournament.

Seven letter winners return for Paul Hewitt’s third season as Head Coach. The Jackets are picked by many to finish in the top half of the ACC. The team will still be one of the youngest teams in the conference and will rely heavily on a pair of incoming freshmen, swingman Chris Bosh and point guard Jarret Jack.

The Jackets’ first game will be Nov. 10 with an exhibition game against the Southeastern AB-Stars, then they face Nike-Marathon in a second exhibition on Nov. 19.

Golf places 11th at Ping tourney

The Georgia Tech golf team improved its team score over the final round of play, but was unable to make a significant move in the team standings, finishing in a tie for 11th in the Ping/Golfweek Preview in Stillwater, Okla.

The 54-hole tournament was contested at the par-72, 7,290-yard Kuser Creek Golf Club, which will host the 2003 NCAA Championships. Senior Troy Matteson was Tech’s top finisher for the second time this year.

football forecast

Arkansas vs. Auburn
Oklahoma vs. Texas
Liberty vs. Akron
Ball State vs. Toledo
Florida State vs. Miami
Colgate vs. Princeton
Tennessee vs. Georgia
NC State vs. North Carolina
Submit your picks at nique.net/footballforecast
Maryland will look to junior Scott McBrien to lead the offense. McBrien has completed 54.2 percent of his passes for 971 yards with six touchdowns and four interceptions. His backup Chris Kelley has been ineffective when playing, throwing no touchdowns but three interceptions.

A.J. Suggs has yet to find favor with the Tech faithful. Despite completing 57 percent of his pass attempts, Suggs has thrown six interceptions. Suggs has also failed to show the capability to put this Yellow Jacket team on his back and carry them to victory. Recently Coach Chan Gailey has given red-shirt freshman Damarius Bilbo meaningful time under center. Bilbo threw a 69-yard touchdown pass to Kerry Watkins against Wake Forest to give the Jackens a 21-16 lead before the team eventually fell 24-21.

**Advantage: Even**

**Running Backs:**
Maryland has been without 2001 ACC Offensive Player of the Year Bruce Perry the entire season. The Terps have used a platoon of three backs, Chris Downs, Josh Allen, and Mario Merrills to make up for Perry’s absence. The trio has combined for 798 yards and eleven touchdowns.

Following a breakout performance in his first career start against UNC, Ace Aziemefe sputtered against Wake Forest. The true freshman ran for only 47 yards on just eleven carries.

**Advantage: Maryland**

**Wide Receivers:**
Maryland has a group of tall and talented receivers. Senior Scooter Monroe and juniors Latrez Harrison and Jafar Williams are all above 6’2”. They should have success against Tech’s small secondary.

The Yellow Jackets receiving corps has been carried by senior Kerry Watkins. Watkins leads the Jackets with 30 receptions for 528 yards (an average of 17.6 yards-per-catch) and three scores. Senior Will Glover has 19 grabs for 204 yards and three touchdowns. Junior Jonathan Smith and true freshman Lekeldrick Bridges have each also have over 100 yards on the season.

**Advantage: Georgia Tech**

**Offensive Line:**
The Terrapin offensive line has allowed ten sacks on the season. They have also been able to control the line of scrimmage to allow for their running back trio to rush for almost 800 yards on the season. The Terps have a team yards-per-carry average of 4.2.

The Jackets have likewise allowed eleven sacks partially due to A.J. Suggs lack of mobility. They have opened good holes for Tech backs to run through. Tech is averaging 4.4 yards-per-carry.

**Advantage: Even**

**Defensive Line:**
Maryland’s defensive front has 12.5 sacks, led by defensive tackle Randy Starks with five. The Terrapin defensive line’s purpose is to occupy opposing offensive lines to free up the linebackers to make plays.

Georgia Tech’s defensive line has only nine of the team’s 15 sacks. This is partially due to the loss of Gathers, thus allowing teams to double team sophomore Tony Hargrove. While Hargrove has only two sacks, he has been able to get in the backfield and disrupt the run with six tackles for loss, good for second on the team.

**Advantage: Even**

**Linebackers:**
E.J. Henderson. That is all you need to know about Maryland’s linebackers. The one-man wrecking crew is both a Butkus and Nagurski award finalist. The 2001 ACC Defensive Player of the Year has a team high 73 tackles, a team high 5.5 sacks, and one interception for good measure.

Joining Henderson are weak-side backer Leon Joe, and strong-side backer Leroy Ambush.

Tech has a talented trio of juniors Key Fox and Daryl Smith and senior Recardo Wimbush. Fox leads the team with 49 tackles, eight for loss. Smith is second with 45 stops, with six coming behind the line of scrimmage.

**Advantage: Maryland**

**Secondary:**
The Terrapins have a solid secondary. This group is led by junior safeties Dennard Wilson and Madieu Williams, who each have 28 tackles on the season, with Williams recording a team high three interceptions. Corners Curome Cox and Dominique Foxworth round out this unit. Tech has also gotten solid play from senior safeties Jeremy Muyers and Cory Collins, who have combined for 59 tackles and three interceptions. Corners Marvin Hester and Jonathan Cox are solid cover-men, but have lacked big play ability; with both failing to intercept a pass all season.

**Advantage: Even**

**Special Teams:**
Maryland has gotten solid production from its special teams. Sophomore kicker Nick Novak is 10-13 on field goals and 22-22 on PATs. Senior punter Brooks Barnard is averaging a solid 43.2 yards-per-punt. Return man Steve Suter is a dangerous punt returner, with a 13.9 yards-per-return average and two touchdowns.

Tech special teams have been slightly under the standard set in previous years. Luke Manget and Dan Burnett are a combined 2-7 on field goals. Punter combo Dan Dyke and Chris Morehouse have combined for a 42.5 yards-per-punt average. Punt returner Kelley Rhino is averaging a respectable 10.6 yards on his returns.

**Advantage: Maryland**
ing him is to watch his hands. He compensates for his lack of speech through hand gestures that show his feelings and ideas.

In order to be Buzz, you have to be in excellent physical condition. If you have ever observed Buzz after the Jackets score a touchdown, you will see that he is busy doing push-ups. I guess that doesn’t sound so bad, but imagine doing push-ups in the heavy mascot suit while you trust numerous Swarm fans and cheerleaders to support you.

Recently, if you were around the Atlanta University Center, you may have seen our beloved Buzz representing Georgia Tech.

He was at Morehouse College’s chapel shooting a commercial along with 12 other college mascots. The theme is a beauty pageant where dogs (December 1 and March 28).

Buzz has been named an All-American mascot on numerous occasions. Buzz’s true identity is secretly guarded until after his term is complete.

That’s right, Tech students. We, being a technological school to deeply involved and reliant upon our computers, can get another opportunity to show our school spirit one mouse click at a time. You can go online at www.capitalonebowl.com and vote for your favorite furry friend. The building on the success of last year. Their only close contest was a 4-3 win over last season’s College Hockey South champion Florida. The Yellow Jackets, who played Georgia in front of over 12,000 fans following a Thrashers game last year at Philips Arena, will play three games on the Philips Arena ice this season.

Those games include an October 19 face-off against Duke and a pair of contests against the Bulldogs (December 1 and March 28). Tickets in the $35 section will be available for $20, or student tickets for all three games are $45.

For more information about the Tech ice hockey team, feel free to visit the website at www.gthockey.com.

Buzz from page 28

“We put our rep on the line for the band this year.”

Roland Sperlich
Hockey Club Goalie

Buzz is very nervous and mischievous. He likes to be the center of attention.”

Buzz
Tech’s No. 1 Cheerleader

Sperlich does suggest that the band wasn’t completely innocent at the last tournament, which Tech won, but he’s confident there won’t be any major situations this year.

“We put our rep on the line for the band this year,” said Sperlich.

Boylston emphasized that he wants the band at the tournament.

“Anything that contributes to the atmosphere is great,” said Boylston.

“We were only concerned about the band this year,” said Sperlich.

There are no penalties, no excruciating waits for instant replays, and no over-complicated playbooks. Plus, this game made legends out of Bo Jackson and Christian Okoye.

RBI Baseball
I’m staying old school for a little bit longer for this one. It gets nominated on the same principle as TSB. It simplified the game to make it fast-paced and more fun to play.

NCAA Football 2003
This series gets better every year, so I’ll nominate the newest one. If nothing else, with well over 100 teams, this game has endless replay value.

(Can you win the Fiesta Bowl with Prairie View A&M? How about Troy State?) Over the last few years they’ve improved the game with respect to the personality of the teams. For example, you can’t throw the ball 40 times a game and expect to win with Nebraska. Hon. Mention: Bases Loaded 2, NHL ’93, FIFA ’98, NFL Blitz.