

Beyond the White and Gold

Are these Techsters born to be athletic?

By Derek Haynes
Sports Editor

There are certain names that, given to newborns, seem destined to create athletic stars. Some of my favorites include former North Carolina cornerback and current St. Louis Ram Dre' Bly, former Georgia cornerback and current Washington Redskin Champ Bailey, and Travis Lee, a first baseman for the Phillies.

Monday night I looked through the Georgia Tech campus directory and came up with a list of people that I feel aren't destined for life in a boring classroom. They have a name that should almost guarantee them success on athletic fields.

Faculty and Staff

Maurice Azar—Azar, an assistant professor with ROTC, could have been a prolific defensive back. I imagine he would be a heavy hitter with Michael Johnson-like speed on the gridiron.

Van Beisel—This research engineer obviously has a name very similar to an actor in one of the worst movies of my lifetime, *Fast and the Furious*. This guy sounds powerful; I imagine Beisel as a fullback for the

Christopher Cruz — Cruz has a name that seems to roll off my tongue...could be a gold-glove winning shortstop for the Braves.

Pittsburgh Steelers.

Christopher Cruz —Cruz has a name that seems to roll off my tongue. I bet this custodian could be a gold-glove winning shortstop for the

Braves. I have a feeling he might not have power at the plate, but his acrobatic feats in the infield will more than make up for it.

Rodney Ice—There is no question this radiation safety officer has the potential to step in the ring and do some major damage. Ice would probably start out as a light heavy-weight but should move quickly up the ladder.

Students

Holly Fay—Holly sounds like a shooting guard with deadly aim from behind the arc. I can also see a career ahead of her as a color commentator.

Meredith Nash—Meredith would have been making noise at the Olympics in Salt Lake City had she gone with her real talent, snow boarding.

James Street—This fleet-footed wide receiver would have no trouble beating the Seminoles' defensive backfield.

Intramural Notebook with Jack B. Nimble

Hockey finishes 3rd in USA

Gotta feel sorry for those club hockey team members. After finishing 27-2 and finishing as the ACHA D-III Southern Division Champions and winning the Thrasher Cup, the team fell just short of winning the Division III national championship.

The squad lost a close game to eventual runner-up Wyoming 2-0 but then rebounded to thump Muskegon 5-3. Congratulations on another successful season fellas.

Division II next year?

Phase II Action Begins

Monday marks the beginning of Phase II action. The sports? Softball, racquetball, 3-on-3 basketball, tennis, and co-rec volleyball.

I can't wait to get in the racquetball court and smash a couple kill shots.

Grapplers dominate the mats

Congrats to the club wrestling squad qualified three members to the 2002 NCWA National Championship.

Tourney Time

Softball

March 22 marks the beginning of the softball tourney. Show your stuff on the artificial diamonds of the SAC field. To register, visit the intramural office located on the bottom floor of the SAC.

Ping Pong

It's all about reaction time—tourney begins April 5. Visit the IM office for more details.

Badminton

Show your stuff in the sport that has the most creative name for the object in play. Tourney takes place on April 7.

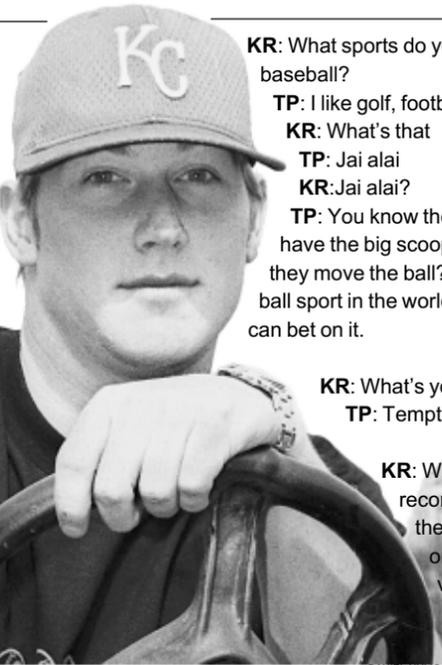
ramblin' with

tyler parker

junior catcher

by kimberly rieck

Tyler Parker began his career with the Yellow Jackets in 2000. The catcher from Marietta saw a lot of action on the field during his first season. In his sophomore year, however, injuries sidelined him for most of the season. This year, Parker is healthy and ready to take on competitors.



DANIEL UHLIG

KR: What sports do you like other than baseball?

TP: I like golf, football, and jai alai.

KR: What's that

TP: Jai alai

KR: Jai alai?

TP: You know the thing where they have the big scoops on their hands, and they move the ball? The fastest moving ball sport in the world. It's in Boston, you can bet on it.

KR: What's your favorite tv show?

TP: Temptation Island 2.

KR: What would you

recommend a person do in the city of Atlanta if they only had one day to visit?

TP: I would say go to the Varsity, Fellini's,

Buckhead, and stop by the Gold Club—the former Gold Club.

KR: What do you do in your free time here?

TP: I don't have any free time. Honestly, I don't know what that is.

KR: What pitcher would you like to catch with, dead or alive?

TP: I'd like to catch against Charlie Hough. I'd like to hit against Charlie Liebrandt. I want to hit off of him because he's terrible, and I might actually be able to get a hit.

KR: What would be the craziest thing that you would do for a million dollars?

TP: I would kiss Steve Tamborra (the trainer) with an open mouth.

KR: What's one of the craziest things you've ever done?

TP: The craziest thing I've ever done is walk

home from Buckhead.

KR: If you don't play baseball, what would you do instead?

TP: I'd be a dictionary salesman, definitely.

KR: If you could be any cartoon character, what would it be?

TP: If I could be any cartoon character, I would definitely be Droopy dog.

KR: Is that a cartoon character?

TP: Heck yeah, you don't know who Droopy the dog is? He can show up wherever he wants and never goes fast. He's awesome.

KR: Is there anyone that you would switch places with?

TP: Peter North.



Diary

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anything embarrassing. I think I held my own.

Anyway, I digress. While I was in my stupor, I almost missed the best game of the tournament. Both teams played amazingly well. NC State shot the lights out again and Maryland gave them an equal fight. The best shot of the game? Definitely the line drive three by NC State's Julius Hodge to put them up by six with only a minute left. It had such an awkward sideways spin on the ball and the ball seemed like it never went above the rim. No one thought it went in. No matter how many how many times it's replayed, I still won't be able to explain it.

The second game was a gimme. I don't think anyone would have betted on Wake, not even some Wake fans. Duke was just playing too well. And while the Deacons, who I believe have the weirdest looking mas-

cot short of the Stanford Tree, put up a fight against Duke and kept close most of the time, it seemed as if Duke was merely toying with them. How can any team compete against arguably the three best players in the country? (Yes, I know about Dan Dickau and Drew Gooden.)

March 10, 2002

Checked out of my hotel this morning. (Aren't free towels great?)

The atmosphere is amazing. My first pro or collegiate championship game of any sport. It really doesn't matter who's playing.

Halftime now, not really a great game but still good and that's what matters. NC State is behind by 14 and looking kind of sluggish but they can still go on a spurt. Who knows, maybe they'll come out for the second half running the four-corner offense. That would be fun.

Well, it's over. Wasn't really a great or good game, but Duke played amazing. The Pack just didn't have

an answer for Boozer or Dunleavy. It's hard to imagine how Duke lost three games in the season. How did they ever lose to FSU for that matter?

All the Duke fans stayed for almost an hour after the game to watch the ceremonies. Even though the arena is half full, if that, it's still boisterously loud. I wonder what it would feel like if that was my team? Oh, well. Boozer seemed genuinely surprised that he received MVP. True reactions. That's what makes college sports different from the pros.

The ride back to Atlanta was uneventful. No cops this time, hardly as many truckers and no banjo boy (I kinda missed him). Instead it was a steady cruise back to Tech until the obligatory slamming of the brakes as soon as I hit I-985. It just gave me more time to look back at a great ACC tourney experience.

Next year it's off to Greensboro, where hopefully Tech will make a longer appearance.

Cuban

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ew, Victor Menocal, who is also a team co-captain, a relief pitcher, and an enjoyer of hip-hop music.

While winning three state titles and almost every high school award and honor possible at Gainesville High School in Gainesville, Georgia, Victor became an ardent fan of Georgia Tech's last great shortstop, Nomar Garciaparra.

Nomar actually called the Menocal house when Victor was getting ready to come to Tech.

"I didn't get to talk to him. My mother got to talk to him. I was real disappointed because I was actually out hitting some baseballs with one of my buddies," said Victor. "His reason for calling was to say that he didn't mind that I wore his number five. I didn't want to disrespect him by wearing his number because it should be retired here at Georgia Tech."

Victor's done his fair share of winning both in high school and at Tech, but he still has a few goals left to accomplish in his senior season.

"I won't settle for anything less than an ACC title and going to Omaha. This is my last year to get there," says Menocal. "I definitely think that we have a good chance with the nucleus we have on this team. I really think that it's going to be a successful year for us. We're all a bunch of gamers and competitors, and I don't think that anyone on this team will settle for less than that."

Sometimes, you add all the ingredients properly, but you feel like there might be a way to make it just a little bit better. If the team needs a fireballer out of the bullpen to get a few critical outs, Victor can do that too as he closed in high school. In his first mound appearance, his adrenaline got the better of him, but it is clear that when focused he can be as hard to hit as he is to get out.

Diary

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ing was higher comedy than that. Until, of course, the next game.

First off, between the second and third game there was a two-hour break in which they kicked every one out of the arena. This gave way to the infamous passing of the tickets. Throughout the parking lot were eager Duke, Maryland and NC State fans preying off the Virginia and FSU fans like vultures attacking a

fresh kill.

Finally the Duke/UNC game started. I'm sorry. Did I say game? I meant circus. Boos from throughout the arena rained down upon the court when the Tarheels were announced. The Reggie Love story was certainly spread around. What was amazing, though, is what happened during the game. Matt Doherty pulled a gameplan out of his bag

of tricks and went throwback style to the ancient four corners offense. Once Duke figured out what was happening they simply set up in zone defense and let UNC's Adam Boone hold the ball at half court until 12 seconds were left on the shot clock. Every time down the court Boone repeated this until Coach Doherty gave him the go-ahead to run their offense. And along with that each time a chorus of boos and chants came from the arena in disapproval. However, those on press row

started talking about how ingenious a plan this was. While it would push the start of the Tech game back almost an hour, definitely a bad thing, it did make for interesting watching. But as I'm sure you know already know, this helped, but the Tarheels could not pull the upset over Duke, who won 60-48. Valiant effort but not enough execution on defense in the second half. Too bad for the Heels though, who had their first 20 loss season in history. Jason Capel and Kris Lang's senior season was the worst season in school history; how would you like that as a label?

One odd thing though. Apparently Duke Coach Krysc...., Coach K, has a heart, despite what many Tech fans may think. With a little over 30 seconds left on the clock Jason Capel fouled out. In what Coach K will probably say was a sign of weakness on his part, Coach K met Capel on his way back to his bench to shake his hand. Maybe he was trying to pass on a cold or a disease but it seemed genuine.

Finally it's the reason I came here. The Tech game is about to start. The Tech fan section is the only section that has plenty of open seats. The majority of the press are in the back either writing stories on the oddity that occurred in the just completed game or fighting over the last few free Dove bars. Some of those guys can get viscous. I think I've had one too many pretzels.

It's halftime now and things don't look good. Wake is having one of those games that NC State had what seems like almost eight hours ago. Wake was shooting almost 65 percent from the field and Darius Songaila seems unstoppable. Why are they playing so well today? It just isn't fair. I'm starting to believe that the ball is loaded with cement judging on how every shot Tech takes comes up short. People around me are already giving me looks of pity. "Good luck next year." I'm not going to give up yet though. We're

only down by 17. After all, we came back to win against Wisconsin. People around me laughed a little but I ignored them. The second half seemed like a continuous anxiety attack. Tech would come within six, then go behind by 12, then come to within three with almost two minutes remaining. How hard can it be to make a basket! Then of course every thing fell apart. "We can still win, we only need how many points?... Oh. Well, we've still got how much time on the clock? Oh." That's when it hits you. Your team lost.

It just wasn't fair; Wake played too well. Can you take away a win from a team if they test positive for drugs, like what happens with medals in the Olympics? I hope that happens. Wishful thinking I guess.

The saddest part of the entire tournament was Tech's press conference. Only ten reporters filled nearly 60 seats, since most had already left by the time Tech Coach Paul Hewitt and Tony Akins arrived. Both had watery, red eyes. Both needed to compose themselves at one point or another while answering questions. I could tell Hewitt was truly going to miss Akins. Too bad he can't stay one more year and watch this budding team develop.

March 9, 2002

I hope today's games will be good so that I can forget about the prior day's events. It's always bad when your team loses, but it's worse in person. Anyway, that was yesterday, this is today. It's before the games have started and I'm already happy. Ran into Dick Vitale or Dickie V and Mike Wilbon. Only thing missing is Stuart Scott. I'll find him somewhere.

The Maryland game is over. Sorry about the time lapse. I was still in awe of meeting Dickie V. I'm glad I didn't say "It's Awesome Baby" or talk about some Diaper Dandies or

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An ACC Men's Basketball Tournament Diary

The scandals, the celebs, the games

Assistant Sports Editor Derick Stanger traveled to Charlotte to take in the tourney experience.

By Derick Stanger
Assistant Sports Editor

March 7, 2002

Well, it's official. March Madness has begun. No, it is not the first round of the NCAA Tourney. The play-in game (or first round to be nice to the bottom dwellers) to the ACC tourney isn't even until later tonight. No, the madness I'm referring to is the enigma that is I-85. I'm sitting stopped somewhere in South Carolina sitting between two semi's. The river below me is so muddy I refuse to believe that the water can still move. I can't imagine it was far from where *Deliverance* was shot. I swear I just saw that kid with the banjo; maybe it was just the fumes from the semi's.

The traffic finally starts moving, but because it's I-85 the speed limit is 55 mph and there are actually cops enforcing the mandatory 40 days in jail speeding-in-a-construction-zone law, so of course every one is going 45 mph. To kill some time I turn on Fox Radio to listen to Jim Rome. What else would he be talking about but the next day's Duke/UNC game? In basketball, no schools have more hatred for each other than Duke and UNC. So of course there's a scandal a couple days before the game. Reggie Love, a Duke bench player, was at a UNC party (not a smart move in the first place). He allegedly drank to the point that he passed out on a

couch. And of course some UNC students took advantage and starting drawing on his face with markers. Things escalated and, well, I'll leave that to your imagination.

Anyway, finally in Charlotte, NC, the home of this year's ACC tourney, checked into my cheap hotel (I love AAA). I arrive at the Coliseum, where of course the parking attendants direct me to the farmers market; apparently that's more popular than basketball. By the time I park and head through security—which is rather lax compared to what I thought it would be—and finally sit in my semi-court-side seat on press row, the national anthem had already been sung and the game has already begun. Great performances were given by two mediocre teams, FSU and Clemson, who fought for the right to lose the next day to Maryland, a situation similar to the recent Alcorn St./Sienna game. The game went into overtime where the behemoth that is Nigel Dixon dominated and led the Noles to a 91-84 victory.

March 8, 2002

First real day of the ACC tour-

ney. The grass is green, the sky is blue and all is good in the world. The only days better than today are Super Bowl Sunday and the first day or two of the NCAA tournament. And now that I know my way to and from the arena, it's child's play.

I enjoy the pre-game meal and know it's off to over ten hours straight of ACC basketball. Am I in heaven or what? First game is the Maryland/FSU game. Maryland let the Noles stay uncomfortably close. Once Maryland step it up, they put the tired Seminoles behind them. The Terps won by a deceptively lopsided score of

85-59. It seemed as if Gary Williams, the Terps head coach, let the Noles stay in it out of respect for head coach Steve Robinson, who everyone knew was going to be fired. (He was relieved of his duties on Monday.) Back to the post-game pressroom where Gary Williams was boring yet respectful to the FSU team. Juan Dixon gave his usual lines. All-in-all uneventful. Couldn't catch the FSU interviews since the NC State/Virginia game was start-

ing (you'd think they'd give more time between games). I'm sure it was equally as riveting though.

The first half of the NC State/Virginia game was amazing, ACC basketball at its prime. Both teams shot over 50 percent and traded the lead several times. The Second half, on the other hand, gave way to a blowout. The Wolfpack shot 70 percent from the field and 90 percent from beyond the arc. Nobody in press row could believe how well they were shooting. They only missed one three in the second compared to Virginia's seven. Virginia lost its will and was down 92-72 when the final buzzer rang. The post game press conference was jovial. Star N.C. State guard Anthony Grundy came out looking like a little boy that had just ravaged a candy store. He was grinning from ear to ear and his personality was contagious. Very soon his coach Herb Sendek was sparring right back with jokes. With the crazy mood going around one reporter (I swear it wasn't me) had to blurt out the dumbest question he could think of, "Besides playing your best what will you have to do to beat Maryland?" And of course the obligatory response from Grundy, "Well... I guess we'll just have to play our best." Now that might not seem funny to anyone outside of the room, but to the people inside that was hilarious. Noth-

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Neal

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a real influential character not only in my conditioning but also in the way I play the game."

Neal considers the main highlights of his career as not only going to the NCAA tournament last year and getting to meet the basketball great and Hall of Famer John Wooden, but also playing at Duke and North Carolina and averaging a rebound per game versus Duke.

"To get to play at places like Duke and North Carolina is something every little kid dreams about," Neal said. "Every game is a war that usually comes down to a last-second possession and just being a part of that on a day-in day-out basis is phenomenal."

Neal considers his career as a Yellow Jacket a successful one and a building block to a new Tech team. "Even though we haven't won as many games as I would have liked to, I feel that with Coach Hewitt, I have helped start something that is going to be bigger than anything anyone can imagine," said Neal, who wore number 14 for the Jackets.

As a dedicated teammate Neal has used his hard-work ethic to influence many of those around him, not only on the basketball court, but also off of it. "He has made my transition over here [from Australia] a lot easier," said freshman teammate Luke Schenscher. "He goes out of his way to help me when I need it and always takes me places I need to go. He has also set an outstanding example on how to be a model citizen and model student at Georgia Tech. He is a top bloke and will be sorely missed."

Fifth-ranked Jackets go 5-0 over break

By Joseph Jeong
Staff Writer

The fifth-ranked Georgia Tech baseball team came close to dropping their first home game of the season against two lesser opponents over the break. They managed to hold off East Tennessee State and Winthrop to maintain a pace to match their best start ever to a season.

Tuesday's game against East Tennessee State went into extra innings as the Jackets needed freshman Clifton Remole's sacrifice fly to put the game away. Converted starter Jeff Watchko was pitching very well until the sixth when he gave up five runs on five hits, which was all the offense East Tennessee State could muster. Brian Burks relieved him and pitched a perfect four innings to pick up the win.

Kyle Bakker continues to solidify his status as the staff ace as he pitched eight strong innings against Winthrop. He struck out eight in the same number of innings, scattering ten hits over that period and gave up four earned runs. Burks came in to shut the door on Winthrop's valiant rally as he pitched a perfect ninth to pick up his third save of the season. Freshman Eric Patterson had a good day on the basepaths as he stole four bases to

help Tech hold on to a 6-4 victory.

Combining a couple of infield hits and a comedy of errors by the Jackets defense, Winthrop jumped to a 4-0 lead to start the second game. The lead was cut to 4-1 before play had to be suspended due to poor weather in the middle of the third inning. When play resumed, Tech didn't gain the lead until the seventh inning when they managed to load the bases with no outs. The end result was a four run explosion that put the Jackets up in front for good. Two more runs were added to pad the lead by Matt Murton in the next inning. Winthrop attempted one last rally in the ninth when they cut the lead to 7-5, but Watchko closed the door on them as he picked up his first save of the season.

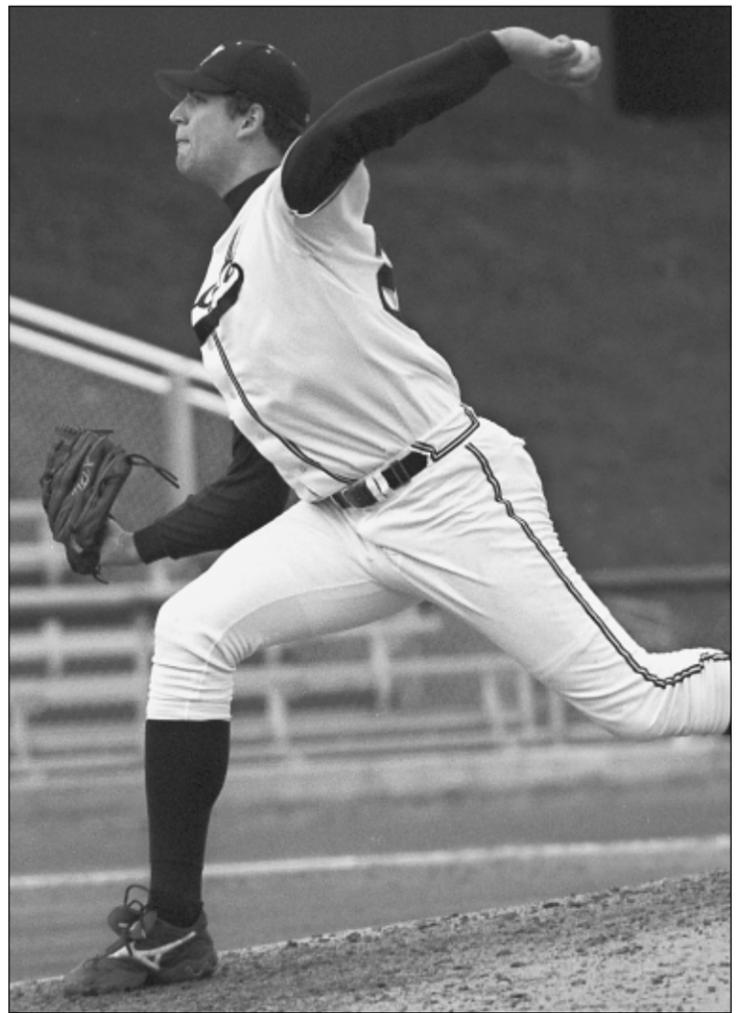
The last game of the series saw the matchup of Winthrop's ace Ben Thurmond and Tech's versatile Burks. Thurmond came close to single-handedly beating Texas his last time out, but he wasn't able to replicate that performance against Tech. He gave up eight runs on ten hits while striking out five in seven innings. Burks fared much better as he gave up seven hits in five innings but only let in one unearned run while striking out six. Remole hit his second homer of the season as the Jackets cruised to an 8-1 win in the final game of the series.

As expected, the Jackets' offense cooled down and the pitching still needs some work outside of Bakker and Burks. Patterson started the season 0-3 on the basepaths but has been on fire lately. Pitching coach Bobby Moranda's philosophy of throwing more strikes is becoming more and more evident as the pitchers continue to be stingy about giving up free bases. They gave up just five walks in the past four games while striking out 36.

Player of the Week honors go to Burks for yet another versatile and virtuoso performance. Burks pitched ten innings, surrendering no earned runs and striking out 11.

Baseball America's Top 15

| TEAM | W-L |
|--------------------|------|
| 1. Stanford | 14-5 |
| 2. Clemson | 10-0 |
| 3. Florida State | 20-4 |
| 4. Rice | 15-4 |
| 5. Georgia Tech | 13-1 |
| 6. South Carolina | 14-2 |
| 7. Wichita State | 8-1 |
| 8. Houston | 12-4 |
| 9. Louisiana State | 13-5 |
| 10. Baylor | 12-6 |
| 11. Nebraska | 8-5 |
| 12. Florida | 13-3 |
| 13. Wake Forest | 13-2 |
| 14. Texas A&M | 16-5 |
| 15. Mississippi | 12-3 |



By Scott Meuleners / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

6'9" starting pitcher Kyle Bakker delivers for the Jackets. Bakker has been the ace of the Tech staff this spring, going 5-0 with a 2.06 ERA. The lefty has also struck out 40 batters in 35 innings while giving up only 2 walks.

atlanta
thrashers
numbers



last week's winner

Congratulations to **Scott Smith**. He was the first to correctly answer that 1 is the number of former Tech golfers to win the Masters Tournament. Larry Mize won the Masters in 1987.

explain what the number on page 36 represents, and win a pair of thrashers tickets

Senior Winston Neal leaves hard-working legacy behind

Former high school class president and academic All-American satisfied with Rambling Wreck basketball career

By Katie Neal
Contributing Writer

Editor's Note: While few editors would feel comfortable allowing the sister of a member of the basketball team to write a story on her brother, I felt Katie would be able to provide a unique perspective of a situation few of us will ever experience.

On Wednesday, February 27, Georgia Tech honored and said farewell to three of their senior basketball players at their last home game. Along with Tech's starting point guard Tony Akins and Michael Isenhour, who was unfortunately sidelined this year with acute lymphocytic leukemia, was one of the 'big brothers' on the team, Winston Neal, a fifth-year senior guard.

Neal, who has played for the past four years and served his freshman year as manager of the team, says he has welcomed this year's added responsibilities as one of the "older guys" and leaders of the team.

"I enjoy being the big brother to the freshmen," Neal said. "I like that coaching aspect, where you are developing that young talent. All five of the freshmen are going to be unbelievable one day. I enjoy watching them mature... I really like this freshman class. They are good kids, great athletes, and very good people."

Although Senior Night was his first time as a starting player in a college basketball game, Neal will be the first to admit that sitting the bench doesn't really bother him. "Not really," he said. "I realized long ago that I did not have the athletic skill to take my game to the higher level to play in the ACC. I do have the basketball smarts and the work ethic that allows me to play, but as to getting playing time, I am just not tall enough and can't jump high enough to be an impact player in

the ACC."

But Neal didn't let what he calls his "lack of skill" stop him from becoming a notable practice player and team motivator. He has been an Academic All-American for two years and received the weight room Iron Man Award twice.

"Sure, it takes skill but there are sacrifices in the weight room, to your game, and to conditioning that nobody every sees," he said. "No one ever sees the hours I put in. No one sees the ten hours a week that I put in lifting in the weight room or the thousands of shots a week I put

"He has also set an outstanding example on how to be a model citizen and model student at Georgia Tech. He is a top bloke and will be sorely missed."

Luke Schenscher
on how Neal's work ethic has influenced him.

up by myself in the gym. Or the two miles I run around SAC fields just so I can be in shape for practice the next day. Everybody just sees the end results and thinks it is so easy, yet no one realizes the dedication and hard work that gets these results."

Nevertheless, Neal doesn't regret any of the sacrifices. To him, the past five years have all been worth the effort. "They have been the best years of my life," he said. "It was a great time and I have gotten to do what I've always dreamed about,

which is playing basketball for Georgia Tech... this is the end of something that I have always wanted and I have enjoyed every minute of it. It's the end of an era for me. This will mark the end of my college years, more so than graduation will for me."

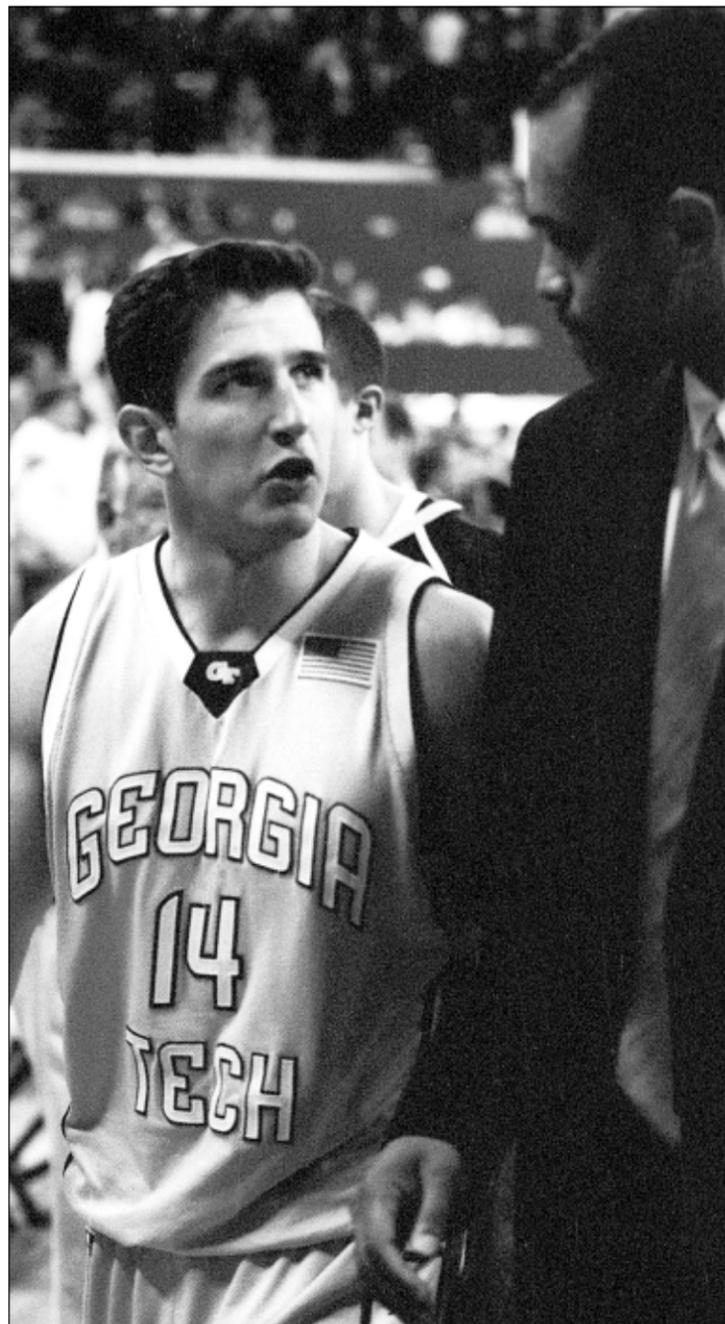
He takes many enjoyable memories with him due to his time on the team, from both the end of Head Coach Bobby Cremins's era and the start of Paul Hewitt's. Neal said one of his favorite memories from his early years is a team-bonding getaway with Cremins at a campsite outside of Atlanta.

"I remember the whole team and coaches—particularly Coach Cremins—were dancing to the 'Rosa Parks' song by Outkast," he said. "I have never seen any human being doing what Coach Cremins was doing, but it was pretty funny."

Even fellow senior Tony Akins has given Neal something to remember. "Tony is actually a phenomenal artist who can sketch caricatures really well—especially of teammates and coaches," Neal said. "The pictures, along with his commentary about the features and personalities of particular teammates and coaches, will leave you rolling on the floor with laughter."

Adding to his memories are the talented individuals he has met along the way. "Foremost, the coaches have influenced me," Neal said. "Especially Coach Hewitt and his attitude toward basketball and life in general. Player-wise, it would have to be Matt Harpring. I used to be his rebounding buddy before, during and after practice, and we were always in the weight room together. I learned work ethic from him and how hard you had to work to accomplish your goals. He has been

See Neal, page 32



By Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Winston Neal talks to Paul Hewitt as he leaves the Alexander Memorial Coliseum court for the final time after Tech's 90-77 victory over Wake Forest. Neal started and played the first 1:13 but failed to score a point.

SPORTS

Technique • Friday, March 15, 2002

ESPN Comes to Campus

AMC will host several TV personalities and college hoops stars on March 28. We'll give a lowdown on the event. Next Week

A championship diary

The Nique's Asst. Sports Editor Derick Stanger traveled to Charlotte to soak in his first ACC tourney experience. Page 32

by
the
numbers

2

Number of times this year that Tech golfer Troy Matteson has not finished under par in a team tournament. Both of which are the only two times that Tech as a team has not won a tournament this year.

4

Times within the last 12 minutes of Tech's men's basketball game against Wake Forest that they cut Wake's lead to within 4. None of the times were they able to capitalize.

9

Number of ACC Rookie of the Year Awards given to Tech players, Ed Nelson being the most recent. The number tops the ACC. UNC has the second most with five.

1992

Last time the Lady Jacket basketball team won a women's post-season tournament, the NWIT, which later became the WNIT. That same year was the last time the Jackets faced Miami, Tech's first round opponent this year.

atlanta
thrashers
number
challenge

hint: Women's Post-season

3

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

The first person to email sports@technique.gatech.edu with the correct response to the challenge will receive a pair of tickets to an Atlanta Thrashers home game, where admission is always half-price for select tickets with a student ID. Visit www.atlantathrashers.com for more info on college nights.

on
deck

| Event | Date |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| BM at Wake Forest | 3/15-3/17 |
| TM vs. Maryland | 3/16 |
| TW at NC State | 3/16 |
| WS vs. Princeton* | 3/17 |
| TW at Wake Forest | 3/17 |
| TM at South Carolina | 3/20 |
| SW at NCAA Championship | 3/21-3/22 |

*Double Header, WS - Women's Softball
BM - Men's Baseball, TW - Women's Tennis
SW - Women's Swimming, TM - Men's Tennis

Ed Nelson claims ACC Hoops
Rookie of the Year AwardBy Derek Haynes
Sports Editor

Freshman forward Ed Nelson became the ninth Tech basketball player to garner ACC Rookie of the Year Honors Wednesday after a stellar first-year campaign.

The 6'7" forward from Fort Lauderdale, Fla. averaged 10.4 points, 6.6 rebounds and shot 54.2 percent from the floor in ACC play. Nelson was second among rookies in scoring and tops among first-year players in both rebounding and field goal shooting percentage.

"I'm very happy for Ed," said head coach Paul Hewitt. "His hard work and dedication was obvious to anybody who saw him play this season."

Nelson outdistanced

N.C. State's Julius Hodge and teammate B.J. Elder for the award, who finished second and third respectively.

Tech has won a league-leading nine ACC Rookie of the Year awards. Nelson joins an exclusive club that includes former Tech stars Mark Price, Dennis Scott, Kenny Anderson and Stephon Marbury, who in 1996 was the last to win the award.

"I give a lot of credit to our coaches for helping develop my game and helping me gain the confidence to go out there every game and play well," said Nelson.

Nelson was often praised throughout the season for his poise on the floor. Nelson, along with Elder, seemed to be the most aggressive of Tech's freshman.



By Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

ACC Rookie of the Year Ed Nelson goes up for a shot as Duke's Nick Horvath and GT's Clarence Moore look on.



By Scott Meuleners / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Victor Menocal has a unique relative—his great, great uncle was the president of Cuba.

Shortstop Victor Menocal
has unique Cuban heritageBy Al Przygocki
Contributing Writer

What does it take to make a great shortstop? It's like making a quality cocktail. It's not just about having the right ingredients; it's also how you mix them.

To make an El Presidente, for example, add 1 and 1/2 ounces of light rum, 3/4 ounces dry vermouth, and a splash of red Curacao. In case of a sub-par mix, add a splash of grenadine to make it all come out right.

To make a great shortstop,

add equal parts extraordinary defense, top-notch hitting, intensity, joy, and leadership. In case of emergency, add a splash of relief pitching.

To be the original El Presidente, you would have to be Mario Garcia Menocal, the president of Cuba from 1913 to 1921, who was also a general, an engineer, and an enjoyer of cigars and apparently cocktails.

To be Tech's current great shortstop, you have to be El Presidente's great, great-neph-

See Cuban, page 29

Hurricanes swamp Lady Jacket's WNIT run, 73-64



By Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Tech guard Milli Martinez, shown in earlier action, scored 10 points and dished out 9 assists in the Lady Jackets' 73-64 loss.

By Al Przygocki
Contributing Writer

Miami used a 15-2 run to start the second half as they overcame a 45-36 half-time deficit and never looked back in ending the Lady Jackets season Wednesday night at Alexander Memorial Coliseum.

Tech (15-14) built its halftime lead with interior scoring and offense generated from its suffocating half-court trap, but Miami (19-11) made adjustments to beat the press and scored easy baskets in the second half. When forced to using a more patient, half court offense, the Lady Jackets broke down in the absence of a veteran point guard and turned the ball over 27 times which lead to 23 points.

"I'm very disappointed in the loss because we really weren't ready to have the season be over," said Tech head coach Agnus Berenato. "I think that the big difference in the game was guard play and our lack of a point guard. Not having a veteran point guard was something that Miami really exploited in the second half. We faked it in the first half, but Meghan Saake is the defensive player of the year in

the Big East and you can see why. We got the ball inside in the first half when they were in a zone, but they pressured the point in the second half with Saake."

Five Tech players scored nine points or more with Sonja Mallory leading the way with 16 points and three blocks. Seniors Milli Martinez, Ashley Ebert, and Regina Tate played in their final game for the Lady Jackets.

In front of a sparse but energetic crowd, Tech ended an up and down season with yet another close loss in a winnable game that once again left a bad taste in the mouth of the team and its followers. However, there is reason to believe that this season will be a solid foundation for future success, especially with one of the nation's top recruiting classes joining the fold next year.

Women's Hoops File

Final Record: 15-14

ACC Record: 7-9 (5th place)

Leading Scorer: Sonja Mallory, 14.1 ppg

Leading FG Percentage: Fallon Stokes, .511

Leading Rebounder: Sonja Mallory, 8.0 rpg

Leading Passer: Nina Barlin, 7.9 apg

Forward Halston
Lane to leave bas-
ketball squad

The Sophomore Lane, who became a fan-favorite during his freshman campaign for his ability to score in big games, has announced his intent to transfer to another school.

Lane, who averaged 6.1 points and 2.6 rebounds as a sophomore, did not have an increased role on the team as many expected during his second season. The left-handed shooter saw his playing time, points, and shooting percentage decrease during his second spring.

Golfers capture
fourth-straight
tourney win

Junior Troy Matteson won his record-setting third-straight tournament and Tech won a fourth-straight team title, also a Tech record, as the top-ranked Jackets dominated the field at the Las Vegas Collegiate, winning by 19 shots.

The Jackets, who finished 20-under-par, were followed by tourney host UNLV and ACC rival N.C. State. Freshman Chan Wongluekiet, whose second-round score of 66 was the best of the tournament, rounded out the top 10 with an even-par performance.

Men's Swim-
ming finishes
2nd at ACC meet

Junior Shilo Ayalon earned All-ACC honors in three events as Tech finished a distant second behind Virginia at the ACC Swimming and Diving Meet. The second-place finish was the best ever for Tech.