School buses are out running their routes and summer is quickly coming to its conclusion—sure signs that football season is right around the corner.

Students at Tech are lucky when it comes to getting a chance to watch their Yellow Jackets on the field this fall. Unlike some other area schools, students are able to attend home games for free. To avoid being left without a ticket to the big game, it’s important to know the ticketing procedures.

Beginning August 18, students must bring their own BuzzCard to the GTAA ticket office, located on Bobby Dodd Way to receive coupons. Individual students can exchange these coupons for tickets beginning on Monday during the week of the game. Students wishing to sit in blocks of 11 or more people should designate a group leader to drop off coupons on Monday only, and pick up tickets for the block on Wednesday. It is also possible to purchase “date passes” for friends to attend. They are available for all home games.

It is important to pay attention to the gate noted on the ticket; students can only use specified entrances. Also, students must bring their BuzzCard along with their ticket to be admitted into the stadium. Students can also acquire tickets to away games, but these cost the full price charged by the hosts. The lottery signup for tickets to the UGA game in Athens is October 1 and 2; the next two days are reserved for pick-up, and all remaining tickets will go on sale that Friday.

The Jackets open their 2004 campaign against Samford on September 4 at 1 p.m. The game is at home, and it will give fans their first glance at this year’s exciting squad, led by sophomore sensation Reggie Ball, in live game action.

Tech is lucky enough to get the chance to host this year’s two new ACC members and perennial football powerhouses, Miami and Virginia Tech, at Bobby Dodd Stadium. Miami comes to town October 2; the Canes are currently ranked fifth in the nation by ESPN football expert Ivan Maisel.

It is possible that these games could result in an extremely high demand for tickets, so waiting until the last minute to acquire tickets for these games is certainly not recommended. Tech students have even been known to camp out in the past to ensure getting tickets to big games. The ticketing procedures are not too difficult to follow, but it is important to have a good understanding of them to keep from being left out.
Preseason poll ranks volleyball atop ACC

By Kyle Thomason
Assistant Sports Editor

Marisa Aston and Jayme Gergen are two members of the most successful senior class in Tech history, fresh off of an Elite Eight appearance—the farthest an ACC school had ever progressed in the NCAA tournament. All five seniors start on a team that is predicted to win the ACC according to the recently-released ACC Preseason Coaches Poll. Gergen, a middle, had barely heard of Tech when she got the recruiting call from the Jackets. "When I first got the call, I was like, 'Georgia Tech.' I'd never heard of Georgia Tech before. I'm from Kansas, where it's all [Kansas] or Kansas State." Gergen visited Tech and came away impressed. "I loved my teammates, especially the girls that would be coming in with me," she said. Last season, Gergen led the team in blocks per game and was second in the ACC in hitting percentage. "I actually was signed up to go to my junior college," said Aston, a libero. "The [previous coach] Shelton, said that if he found a defensive specialist that was good enough, he'd put her on scholar- ship to be libero for the next year." Aston was ready to leave her home state of California and head across the country; three years later, she is a preseason all-ACC selection and very satisfied with her choice to come to Tech. The other seniors are also contributing to Tech's success.

Lynnette Moster and Lauren Sauer on the outside are going to be a pretty dynamic duo; they're going to be one of the best outside hitting combinations in the country," said Coach Bond Shymansky. Moster is a two-time All-American and Sauer was named to the All-American squad last year as well. They provide a very sturdy base for this year's squad. "I think Laura Kuhn's going to be somebody to watch out for on the right side; she's our secret weapon," Gergen said about her senior teammates. Already a starter and solid player, "I think Laura is going to have a breakout year. We had so much balance last year we didn't have to rely on her, but this year, I think we're going to have to rely on her," Shymansky said.

By Edward Tamsberg
Sports Editor

Contrary to the nerdy stereotype, Tech has long been known for its student body’s athletic prowess. In this year’s Sports Illustrated poll, all intramural athletes at division 1-A colleges and universities across the country and named Tech as the "most aggressive and competitive of all." That tradition continues with the new Campus Recreation Center and the intramural sports offered every semester.

Some sports offer co-ed participation, but all sports allow women to play. There is a Women’s League, where teams are composed solely of women, a Co-Rec League, where teams are made of both men and women and a Men’s League, where team can be composed of both men and women. Co-Rec teams must always have a certain number of male and female players on the field or court at a time, but men’s sports teams can have as many of either as they want.

It is not necessary to sign up with a whole team to play. Free agents are always available to be picked up, and can be found at the intramurals website. Free agents are required to fill out their name, email address, phone number, what sport they want to play, and for what reason why they are the next Lebron. Most are just people looking for a team, but others are true ringers, too good to be held down and who, like everyone else, just want to play.

Players are allowed to play on any number of teams, but not on two teams for the same sport. You can play on a flag football team in the A League and an ultimate frisbee team in the B League, but not a flag football team in the A League and a flag football team in the B League. The penalty for making this common mistake is forfeiture of the game you last played in and dismissal from both teams.

Captains are given special responsibilities as the designated leaders of their team. They make sure everybody on their team is eligible, has paid, signed their waivers, brings their Buzz Card to every game and is informed of the rules. They must also keep in close contact with the intramural staff and make sure their team is informed of any important news.

Play is broken up into four different leagues: A League, B League, C League and the Co-Rec League. Traditionally, B and C League have played host to the largest number of teams. These are people who have the free time and the interest, and whose commitment is usually anywhere from waffling to solid.

The A League is composed of those who have either played competitively in the past or who have a burning desire to prove something. The Co-Rec league hosts play for co-ed teams. The A League winners are considered school champions and get the highly coveted team trophies.

A unique rating score is used to determine the ranking of each team. Some leagues will be broken down into divisions depending on the number of teams playing that season, and teams will either compete against others in their own division or those in their league. The rating score is calculated by a formula that takes in a number of games a team has won, the points they have scored in each game, the points their opponents scored against them, their opponents’ records and a sportsmanship score, ranging from zero to four, awarded by the referees after every game.

Post-season play is determined in each sport and league by the rating score of each team from its season schedule. Teams also must achieve a certain sportsmanship rating to be eligible. The size and length of each tournament differ depending on everything from the number of teams in the league that year to the availability of the fields for play, and they have been known to change at short notice. That is why

Intramurals offer high-class competition

By Christopher Gossey
STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Flag football is one of the more popular intramurals at Tech. Lineman must keep their hands behind their backs at all times while staying between the quarterback and the defense.

Women’s tennis recruits shine

Incoming freshmen Kristi Miller and Amanda Silverthorn produced impressive results this summer on the tennis courts. The pair teamed as doubles partners and made it to the finals of the Michigan Tournament. They followed that up by winning the USTA/ITA National Hardcourts, in which Miller also won the singles competition.

By Laura Holloway / Student Photo Editor

Jackets assistant leaves the nest

Scott Stricklin has been named head baseball coach at Kent State University. He has been an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator for Tech the past two seasons. In his role as Tech’s recruiting coordinator, Stricklin landed some solid recruiting classes highlighted by a class that was ranked No. 1 in the nation by both Baseball America and Collegiate Baseball in 2002. Stricklin enters his third season under current Tech coach Danny Hall.

Players build Habitat House

Tech football players were working hard off the field this summer, with approximately 15 coaches and players working each Saturday to build on a Habitat for Humanity home built in partnership with HomeBanc Mortgage Corporation. The three-bedroom, two-bathroom dwelling in Marietta was dedicated August 7.

Tech golfers see summer successes

Yellow Jacket golfers have had incredible success on the links this summer. Mike Barbosa won the Cardinal Amateur, and Nicholas Thompson, Chuck Wongluekiet and Roberto Castro, all of whom made the All-Atlantic Coast Conference golf team in the spring, have qualified for the stroke play portion of the U.S. Amateur golf tournament. Thompson and Wongluekiet each won their section qualifying tournaments to punch their tickets to the big event, while Castro placed third in his sectional.

Duncan named to softball staff

Brandon Duncan has been named an assistant coach for softball for the upcoming season. "I'm looking forward to Brandon working with our pitchers and catchers this season," said head coach Ehren Earnley. "His pitching career in men's fastpitch softball is important to me. I know the level of play in the men's game and have a great deal of respect for those who play it." As a player, Duncan toured Asia with the "King and his Court" in 2001.

By Laura Holloway / Student Photo Editor

Women's tennis recruits shine

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The biggest change in the BCS system will be the addition of one bowl game to the Bowl Championship Series lineup. The Rose Bowl, Sugar Bowl, Fiesta Bowl and Orange Bowl will all get their own respective games in the new system, excluding the current national championship game. These games will be played in one week. Then, the following week, there will be the National Championship game that will rotate between the four games year by year as it does in the current system.

The new game was put in place to offer more spots in for smaller conferences and more at-large bids. “The purpose of the BCS is to match the nation’s top two college football teams in an end-of-season bowl game for the National Championship,” Weiberg said. “This formula goes a long way to eliminate some of the controversy surrounding previous match-ups as we continue to improve upon the system.”
Junior Lindsey Laband has stepped up into the starting setter role vacated by graduated All-America Kele Eveland nearly seamlessly. “She’s a great all-around player,” said Aston. Shymansky agreed: “Lindsey ran our team all spring; she was our starter, and she did a great job.”

If the past spring serves as any indication of how well the Jackets play with Laband, then she is certainly to have a successful campaign.

Shymansky said, “She didn’t lose a match for us in all the competitions this spring. We played some tough teams, including Florida, who was the national runner-up last year, and she figured out how to beat them not once, but twice. She’s great with our system; it’s all she knows.”

This year’s team also includes a trio of incoming recruits: Nikki Kaminskas, Ulrike Stegemann, and Lindsey Gray. Kaminskas was a top two or three member of the German Youth National Team, and basketball player Ashley Guerrant.

Gray will spend this year learning against great competition and really see where they stand. These are the people I’m going to develop relationships. It’s very important to our coaches to keep in close contact with intramural officials. Costs are determined on a team-by-team basis. They range anywhere from $30 to $45. Depending on the number of players on each team, which differs for every sport, the average is about five bucks each.

Different sports are offered in the different phases of each semester. Staples like flag football and Ultimate Frisbee are always sure ways to have fun, and a wide array of other sports offer a satisfying change from the traditional. Sports like team dodgeball, wallyball and raquetball are all increasing in popularity every year.

Referees are needed for intramural sports every year. Training, clothes and equipment are provided, and refereeing gives a means of interaction with fellow students without having to take sides or worry about winning. It is also a chance to earn a bit of extra cash during the semester.

The completion of the CRC and all its facilities will provide a wealth of enjoyment for the whole student body. In the past, construction had obstructed the intramurals programs, but now with more parking and larger accommodations, the intramural program is poised to bring new life to student recreation.

Rules, times, requirements for eligibility and other important information can be found at the intramurals website at www.crc.gatech.edu/IM.
**Offense**

Tech's football team will be entering its 12th season on September 4 against Samford, but before they do, it's appropriate to see how the team stacks up.

### Quarterback: Grade: A-

With last year's ACC Rookie of the Year returning at quarterback, Chan Gailey will be able to focus his attention elsewhere this year. In his freshman campaign, Reggie Ball started every game and led the Jackets to a school record seventh consecutive bowl game. Ball had an up-and-down freshman campaign, but showed flashes of greatness and captivated fans like no Jackets signal caller since Joe Hamilton.

The Jackets will be looking to give Ball some additional time by throwing in the shotgun formation more this season. This should give Ball a chance to read the defense a bit better as well as giving him more time to react against the speedy defenses in the ACC.

Patrick Carter will help add depth at the position, but his attributes are very similar to Ball’s, making his use as a "change of pace" back unlikely. It appears that Carter has recovered from injury problems that hampered him as a freshman. "He’s certainly made a great deal of progress from the end of the season to the end of spring practice, so that was a positive, and we'll see if he's taken it another step, which he needs to do," Gailey said.

### Running Backs: Grade: A+ with Ball

With P.J. Daniels back after a strong performance in the Humanitarian Bowl against Tulsa, Tech will be looking to run the ball to take some pressure off of Reggie Ball and an overall inexperienced set of wide receivers. Daniels will come close to the 1400-plus yards that he put up last year, but the offensive line and his health will determine if he actually meets or exceeds it.

Senior Jimmy Dixon is returning to help pave the way for Daniels this year. Although Dixon rarely handles the ball, often playing the fullback spot, he is a solid blocker. Backup Chris Woods will also be ready for action in the backfield when Daniels comes out for a breather.

Both offense and defense have lost important players. Linebackers and tight ends remain in control of the passing lanes, a task that will be given the opportunity to win the job," said Chan Gailey.

### Wide Receivers: Grade: B+

Patrick Nixon’s first task as offensive coordinator will be finding a way to solidify the receiving corps after the departure of Jonathan Smith. Nate Curry looks to be the lead receiver, but behind him there are several players who the Jackets will be looking to step up. Damarius Bilbo is in his second season as a wide receiver for Gailey and will be asked to take on some of the burden. He looked sharp in the first fall scrimmage, catching two circus catches. Freshman Calvin Johnson will be competing for playing time; he has shown incredible athletic ability, but the transition between high school and college football for such a great athlete can be difficult. Senior Levon Thomas will also be called upon to carry some of the offensive burden.

“We certainly don’t mind playing who the best player is whether they are a freshman or a senior,” Gailey said. [Bilbo]’s made a lot of improvements. He made great strides from the first day of spring practice to the last day of spring practice. I’m anxious to see if he’s carried over from the end of spring practice to the beginning of fall practice where he was in control of the passing lanes, and the defense is always ready to go.
Once again, the Jackets will rely on their defense to help win games for them, and what better way to do that than stopping the run with one of the more impressive defensive lines in recent history. On the ends will be Eric Henderson with Travis Parker, who moved from tackle to end to help alleviate some of the focus on Henderson. Last year, Henderson was the ACC leader in sacks and second in tackles for loss.

At the tackles, sophomores Joe Anoai and Mansfield Wrotto will be starting in the middle. They should be strong against the run game. Expect the Jackets to employ a “nickel line” with Parker moving inside in passing situations.

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Special Teams

After a disappointing season last year, the kicking game looks to have some fresh faces going into the start of fall practices.

“We didn’t have anybody in the punting game step up in spring practice. Cal Belcher, a signee that we have, will be the guy that we’ll look at very closely in the kicking game,” Gailey said.

Belcher was told to focus mostly on punts after spring drills in which Travis Bell was lined by preseason All-American James Butler at free safety. Junior Dawan Landry will be returning as the returning starter at one corner, but the defense must replace the loss of Jonathan Cox from last year’s squad. Filling in the opposite corner will be Dennis Davis and Kenny Scott competing for playing time, with the player not starting likely to fill the nickel slot. Gailey would prefer to see his cornerbacks be able to play one-on-one to open up more options.

“Take into consideration how the guy plays, how intelligent [Butler] is, and how he handles himself on and off the field. He’s a star in all three of those areas. His performance, his knowledge of the game and his character are just outstanding, and that’s why he’s a great player,” Gailey said. Expect a lot of big plays from Butler in the defensive backfield this year.

Right - Reuben Houston makes a break on a pass. The secondary looks to be a strength for the Jackets this year.

Below - The Jackets hope to have a swarming defense, just like last year’s squad.

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In spite of teams’ success, Georgia’s still on my mind

By Edward Tamsberg
Sports Editor

I still remember how last year began. No real expectations, only a little bit of hope and some luck. Looking back, that was all it really took for things to turn our way.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution was the first to see Reggie Ball’s potential, saying Ball (at the time just a pre-season standout) was “impressive” at practice and that he made “consistently good decisions.” Not a glowing review, but optimistic given the mostly sporadic performances of Tech’s previous quarterback.

But Reggie proved himself to be different than his predecessor, and the rest of the football team was right there with him. By the time November came around, the team was rolling after their win over Maryland and the instant classic “Open for Buzzi-ness” had been out so long even Clough was tired of it. The season came with its ups and downs, but none of that really mattered. The true test of strength for us came on Thanksgiving weekend.

Basketball was by far one of the best stories of the year. That same Thanksgiving weekend it was UConn Head Coach Jim Calhoun who was, in his own words, “the most surprised guy” at Madison Square Gardens. For that moment, our Cinderella-story-in-the-making seemed to put past the traditionally recognized game of the weekend played at Bobby Dodd Stadium, but B.J. Elder was right when he said that night that there was no “secret anymore.”

Who would have thought that the Preseason NIT would have been such a good predictor for the NCAA tournament? Our losses that season were few, but there was one in particular that stood out above all others.

“Have we forgotten about Athens? Despite the noticeable success of all three of our programs, we failed to put down those UGA dawgs.”

Basketball had left off against UConn. After opening with a six-game winning streak, Tech went on to lose nine of its next twelve games, including three consecutive home games to UVA. The ACC put it best when, in an April article, they said it had “been a season of peaks and valleys for Georgia Tech’s basketball team.” Tech went on to lose the ACC tournament in two games to Florida State, but the season was far from over.

“Our main goal is to win a national championship for Georgia Tech,” Second Baseman Eric Patterson said in February, and that was what it came down to. After plowing through both Jacksonville State and Texas Tech, baseball found itself on track to the College World Series. But after dropping two games, in a best of three series, to a team we know all too well by this point, Tech’s dream was crushed and die-hard fans were left waiting for next year for another shot at glory.

Have we forgotten about Athens? Despite the noticeable success of all three of our programs, we failed to put down those UGA dogs. Aren’t we inarguably the best in the state, if not a national contender?

This rivalry is a streak of bad blood that has existed since the founding of our two universities. A tradition that predates the enrollment of George P. Burdell, it marks every game and gathering with shouts of “To Hell with Georgia!” Yin and Yang, Conservative and Liberal, Northern and Southern, Tech and UGA. Every year I struggle to get tickets for the long-awaited game on Thanksgiving Day. This year we need to bring our game to their place.

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NCAA modifies recruiting regulations

By Kyle Thomason
Assistant Sports Editor

Last year, the Miami Herald ran a series detailing the recruiting tour of highly touted linebacker Willie Williams. The piece was an eye opener with regard to the royal treatment that recruits had come to expect.

Williams was afforded private jets whenever they were deemed necessary. On his trip to Miami, the school was eventually selected. Williams was picked up by Coach Larry Coker in a Cadillac Escalade. He lived the life of a celebrity, staying in five-star hotels (one even had a Jacuzzi on its balcony) and eating a plethora of lobster tails and steaks.

When he dropped by the locker room, he found a jersey with his name prominently displayed, and was treated to a simulated introduction that can usually be found only in one’s wildest dreams. Leaving campus in the evening to enjoy Miami’s nightlife, Williams “encountered” such notables as Warren Sapp, Clinton Portis and Jevon Kearse.

Williams’ escapades certainly indicated to one very important group, the NCAA’s Board of Directors, that change was necessary. Come this fall, recruits will not be enjoying all of the frills that were afforded to those in the past—widespread changes are limiting the pampering that prospects will receive when they show up for their campus visits.

The new policies must be in writing at the NCAA’s member schools before they are allowed to host any recruits this fall. Some of the highlights include that only commercial flights and standard transportation may be used to transport recruits, and room and board must be consistent with those standard for students at the school.

Schools must also outline their guidelines regarding “entertainment” on and off campus as well as setting up strict rules prohibiting underage drinking, gambling and other activities that could be construed as illegal or immoral. Personalized memorabilia such as jerseys for the incoming players and top candidates to emerge from the cornerbacks and wide receivers, many of whom have experience in returning kicks.

**Outlook: 1-3 regular season**

Chan Gailey’s Jackets are looking to improve on last season’s successes, and to smooth out some of the bumps in the rollercoaster. The Jackets should be able to look at Samford and UConn as certain non-conference wins. In the conference, though, things will be hairy.

The Jackets should be able to beat Duke and North Carolina with relative ease, but there are reasons why football is played on the field and not on paper. Clemson will be the Jackets’ first real test for the incoming players and Maryland, NC State and Virginia will all be very difficult games, but Tech has a good chance in prevailing in at least two of the three games. Virginia Tech looks to have a bit of a down season, but will be a tough match for Tech.

Georgia is somewhat overhyped this year, but going into Athens will be tough if Tech can’t handle the pressure of an instate rivalry or lets itself get psyched out.

The only down game in the schedule is the Miami game at the first weekend of October, but they will be coming off two cupcake games in a row coming into Atlanta. Odds are pretty good that an overconfident and underprepared Miami team might come to Atlanta and overlook a hungry Yellow Jackets squad.

Number of Tech student athletes named to the 2003-04 Atlantic Coast Conference Academic Honor Roll. This is William Hardy’s fifth straight year on the honor roll, and the Jackets boast 10 other members who have been honored for four consecutive years.

Tech’s national preseason ranking in volleyball according to the USA Today Coaches Preseason Poll. This is the same spot the Jackets held in the preseason rankings last year to begin their Elite Eight run, which ended in a number eight final national ranking.

Number of holes under par that Mike Barbosa shot en route to winning the Cardinal Amateur. The rising junior emerged victorious after a four-hole playoff with Duke’s Ryan Blaum.
The Boys of Summer search for cooler climate

By Kyle Thomason
Assistant Sports Editor

They play for teams all over the country, many making the trek to New England to get experience in their summer leagues, with some playing for teams centered as far away as Alaska. For many of Tech’s players, this is nothing new; a large portion of them played competitive travel baseball for years before they even thought about college, spending their summers barnstorming about the country.

The most popular destination for Tech players this summer is the Cape Cod League. Professional scouts hover around the New England area to catch a glimpse of the next superstar honing his skills. Players are invited by the independent teams to play in the prestigious summer wooden bat league; the only qualification is that they must have NCAA eligibility remaining.

Many of the Tech participants have been experiencing great success in the league. John Goodman has posted a stellar 1.32 ERA and Ryan Self has also been outstanding, limiting the opposition to only 18 hits in his first 37 innings pitched.

Tyler Greene has handled the bat extremely well, hitting nearly .300 in what is known as a pitcher’s league. Micah Owings has been impressive on the mound and with the bat during his stint for Bourne, giving up only one earned run in 13 innings of work and batting .345.

Tim Gustafson and Ryan Turner have also been hanging around the Northeast this summer, competing in the New England Collegiate Baseball League for the Keene Swampbats. Both Gustafson and Turner were terrific on the hill for the Swampbats; Gustafson finished with a 2.53 ERA, and Turner’s numbers are incredible; he won all five decisions in which he was involved, and opponents only hit .184 off of him for the summer.

Jared Hyatt and Blake Wood spent their summers thousands of miles away pitching for the Anchor-age Bucs of the Alaska Baseball League. Alaska may not be that well-known for its baseball, but one must imagine its climate in the summer might provide a nice escape from the heat and humidity of Georgia. Both Hyatt and Wood received a good amount of work, and their statistics indicate that they threw the ball very well this summer.

Fall classes are starting and Micah Owings, Jeremy Slayden and Eric Patterson still remain unsigned. This is a pleasant surprise for Tech fans; all three of them are highly regarded players having enjoyed great
Draft

success at the collegiate level, and it is very possible they could be back on campus competing for the Yellow Jackets in the spring. It is extremely rare for players of their ability level to continue playing at the college level after being drafted.

Of the great class of incoming freshmen signed by Georgia Tech, only Eddie Prasch and Blake DeWitt have signed to play professionally, leading the Yellow Jackets with quite a crop of incoming players. A half dozen of the recruits, Matt Wieters, Eddie Burns, Brian Futrel, Tim Laid, Danny Payne and Michael Fisher, were included in Baseball America’s pre-season Top 100 College and High School Prospects for the 2004 June Draft.

Wieters, ranked among the top three prospects in the state of South Carolina the past year, has been very impressive in competition this summer. He was the co-MVP at the 18-and-under Perfect Game/ Wood Bat Association Summer Championship this summer, batting .400 and saving two games on the mound for the Charleston Diamond Devils. He is just one of several Tech recruits that have been playing all over the country this summer, with quite a few playing for the vaunted East Cobb Yankees.

Rounding out the big news for the summer, Tech has added a pair of new coaches for the upcoming season. Josh Holliday, a former All-American, Academic All-American and assistant coach at Oklahoma State, a school at which his father coached, will be joining Coach Danny Hall’s staff as an assistant. His main focus will be working on hitting and catching. “We really recruited Josh out of high school, but we eventually lost him to his dad and Oklahoma State. I am very happy to have him on our staff now,” commented Hall in a press release about the new acquisition.

The other addition to the staff is a man who is very familiar to Yellow Jacket baseball fans, Victor Menocal. Menocal has retired from professional baseball and will return to Atlanta as a volunteer assistant coach. The former star shortstop has been pitching in the Phillies organization this past season, and is thrilled at the chance to return to Tech, “I have always wanted to get into coaching,” said Menocal. “Coach Hall will give me the opportunity to get that phase of my career started and I am really excited about it.”

The changes instituted are designed to steer these trips toward revealing the prospects having to transfer before, and the new rules could lead on the visits may have never flown to come under heavy scrutiny this winter. Some consider this to be an excesses. Being embarrassed by recruiting winter. Some consider this to be an opportunity to get that phase of my career started and I am really excited about it.”

The greatest concern regarding the reforms seems to be emerging from the ban of non-commercial airlines. Commercial flights don’t reach areas near all major universities and smaller airports often have only a flight or two coming in each day from most locales, making it difficult to get all recruits on campus in a timely fashion.

Another concern of some coaches is that many of the young men going on the visits may have never flown before, and the new rules could lead to the prospects having to transfer between planes, possibly multiple times. They feel that it could put them at a major disadvantage if a recruit has been rattled before he even arrives.

A concrete example applies to recruits who also play high school basketball and stay at home to play an Olympic trials. These young men would have a difficult time catching a plane before Saturday morning, and depending on the distance from a major airport to campus could miss the morning sessions. This is when most programs host their academic sessions, which are crucial to recruits being exposed to the courting school’s academic attributes and support services.

With all of these reservations about the viability of using commercial flights, expect this clause to come under heavy scrutiny this winter. Some consider this to be an overreaction, but coaches have little doubt that the NCAA is taking a stand, and it is taking steps to avoid being embarrassed by recruiting excesses.

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