

Jackets to conclude tumultuous season against Clemson



Kristi Odom / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Guard Shaun Fein's shooting performance from beyond the arc helped Tech stay in Wednesday night's game against UNC, despite the 74-72 overtime outcome.

By Seth Andrews

All Alone

Tomorrow is the end of an era at Georgia Tech. The man who vaulted Georgia Tech basketball to national prominence will coach his last game at Alexander Memorial Coliseum. His legacy and his trademark coaching style will never be duplicated again at Georgia Tech.

Since coach Cremins announced his retirement effective at the end of the season, the players have had little to play for but personal pride, but have shown resilience in their outings on the court. Last Thursday, Tech beat the North Carolina State Wolfpack 66-63, sealed by three free throws in the final twelve seconds by shooting guard Shaun Fein.

After a subpar first half that found the Jackets behind 35-27, and five straight points out of the gate in the second half by N.C. State, Tech decided that is was time to play. Tech went on a 27-6 run to put the Jackets ahead by a score of 54-46 with 8:15 left in the game. Jason Collier spearheaded the comeback, scoring 11 of his 22 points during the Tech spurt to lead the team. Jason Grundy then led a Wolfpack charge, scoring 10 points, including two baskets from long range in a 12-2 run to give the Wolfpack the lead at 58-56. Tech then showed off its skills at the charity stripe, as Tony Akins and Alvin Jones both converted on their two attempts to put the Jackets ahead by two.

Grundy then hit another three-point basket to bring the lead back in favor of the Wolfpack with a minute remaining. Tech's leading scorer Jason Collier

then scored on a hook shot and converted a free throw to put the Jackets ahead, but Grundy put the Wolfpack squad on his back again, scoring on a runner to tie the score at 63.

Fein then took over at the line and sealed the victory for Tech. Aside from Grundy exploding for 29 points on 4-6 from three point land, the Tech defense stifled the rest of the N.C. State squad, holding the next leading scorer to nine points. After the N.C. State game, it looked like the squad was actually gaining some momentum heading into the ACC Tournament, but all dreams of running the table were shot down in the next game.

Tech traveled to Wake Forest last Sunday and was beaten by the score of 76-64. Wake forward Darius Songaila led the charge for the Demon Deacons, scoring a career high 26 points in the triumph over the hapless Jackets. Tech never led in the game, but closed the gap to 63-60 with 2:35 remaining on a three-point bomb from T.J. Vines. After Vines brought the Jackets within striking distance, the Demon Deacons scored six straight to put the game out of reach, and then clinched the victory by hitting nine of ten free throws in the two minutes.

The first half started out with Songaila setting the tone for the entire game, exploiting Collier's defensive weaknesses with quick moves to the basket on the low post, scoring on each of his first four field goal attempts. Collier answered on the offensive end with 19 points of his own, but to no avail as the Deacons played smarter basketball and made key second half three point baskets.

The Deacons amazingly only had six turnovers, as compared to 13 miscues committed by the Jackets, and shot 5-11 from the lucious land of the trifecta. The effort that was lacking against Wake Forest was soon to be found in the next game, but frustratingly thrown away in the final seconds.

Wednesday night the Jackets traveled to the Dean Smith Center on the campus of the University of North Carolina. Carolina's opponents have disrespected the hallowed ground of the Dean Dome this year, as the Tar Heels have lost five times on their home court.

The Jackets took the Tar Heels to the limit, but eventually lost 74-72 in overtime. Tech led most of the first half, but the Tar Heels played inspired ball on Senior Night. In the second half, point guard Ed Cota took over, dishing ten assists in the second half alone, and he also drained a key three point basket in overtime to seal the victory for the Tar Heels. Tech stayed in contention throughout the second half by merit of excellent shooting from beyond the arc, keyed by Fein, Akins, and Collier. UNC freshman Joseph Forte played his heart out, scoring 19 points, including the go-ahead basket to lead the Tarheels. Forte also played excellent defense, with six counts of larceny committed against the Jackets. The final possession typified Tech's agony this season. After Tony Akins had to leave the game with a knee injury on the final possession, the Jackets had one last chance to tie the game. Fein took an ill-advised three from nearby Durham which missed badly, and the Jackets won the rebound scramble, only for Vines, Akins' replacement, to throw the ball out of bounds to end the game.

Collier scored 25 points in the loss, including the basket that sent the game to overtime. His excellent play inside was offset by his counterpart, Alvin Jones, who, despite his ten rebound performance, had seven turnovers and could not make any semblance of a post move against Tar Heel center

Brendan Haywood.

The only other positive that he provided was his five for six shooting from the line.

Tech's last chance to salvage some good from this tumultuous season comes tomorrow against the Clemson Tigers, who are mired in last place with the Jackets. The loser of this game will play the number one seed in the conference tournament, Duke, while the winner will play the seventh place N. C. State Wolfpack. The Tech seniors, Jason Collier, Jason Floyd and Paul Trotti will be honored in their last home games as Yellow Jackets. The team will come out with extra motivation and the student body will show up decked out in Cremins attire to honor the most liked, best all-around coach to ever tromp the hardwood of ACC basketball.

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Bulldogs take a bite out of Tech's winning streak

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Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The three-run blast off the bat of third baseman Mark Teixeira was one of the few highlights during Tech's game against Georgia.

By Chris Milstead

Rookie

Tech's baseball team was riding a five-game winning streak into last weekend's action. However, it all came tumbling down, as the Jackets have dropped two of their last three games.

The most recent loss came on Wednesday afternoon, as the Georgia Bulldogs were able to pull off a 13-5 victory.

The Jackets, who were 8-4 heading into the contest, jumped on the scoreboard first, taking a 1-0 lead in the first inning courtesy of a leadoff homer by second baseman Richard Lewis.

However, the Dogs, who brought an 8-0 record with them from Athens, answered with three runs in the second, and never looked back. Most of the damage came from the bat of the Dogs' catcher, Doc Brooks, who blasted two home runs in the game while driving in seven. Both of his shots were three-run blasts.

To make things worse, Georgia pitcher Matt Steele (3-0) tossed a good game, allowing just two runs and five hits over six innings of work.

A three-run homer by third baseman Mark Teixeira in the bottom of the seventh looked like the beginning of a rally for the Jackets, but the Dogs were able to hold off the attempt.

They answered Teixeira's lead-shaving efforts with a two-run performance in the top of the eighth, padding their lead to 13-5, where it would stand.

In last week's action, the Jackets' split a two-game set with the Spartans of UNC-Greensboro at Russ Chandler Stadium.

In Saturday's game, UNCG got off to a quick start with solo home runs by Kyle Tasco in the first, and Ryan Gordon in the third to give the Spartans an

early 2-0 lead.

However, Tech stormed back, scoring consecutive runs in the third, fourth, and fifth, giving the Yellow Jackets a brief 3-2 lead.

UNCG took the lead once again in the top of the seventh with a two run home run by Ryan Gordon, but hot-hitting junior Bryan Prince tied it up 4-4 with an RBI single. This score held till the top of the ninth when UNCG belted out to a ten to four lead.

In the bottom of the ninth, Prince, who went 4 for 5 with 4 RBIs in the game, hit a two-run shot to cut into the Spartan lead, but it was too little to late as UNC Greensboro upset the Yellow Jackets 10-6.

Another ninth inning nail biter took place in Sunday's action. The pesky Spartans once again got on the board first with back-to-back doubles as they leaped out to a 2-0 lead.

Tech jolted back in the bottom half of the inning highlighted by a Victor Menocal three run homerun, giving the Yellow Jackets a 4-2 lead.

The lead did not last long, as the Spartans Jeremy Purcell smacked a 2 run homer in the top of the second, culminated by another two run shot in the fourth by Ryan Gordon, his third of the series, to give UNCG a 6-4 lead.

The Spartans drove in another run in the seventh to increase their lead to 7-4 before the Tech offense struck back again with two runs in the seventh to send the game into the bottom of the ninth with the Jackets trailing 7-6.

The leadoff hitter, Lewis, who had a five hit performance, began the Jackets rally with a base hit. Sophomore Wes Rynders reached first on a fielder's choice, and pre-season All American Mark Teixeira followed with a walk.

Bryan Prince then came through in the clutch with a single, driving in Rynders and advancing Teixeira to third. With one out and runners on first and third, head coach Danny Hall opted for Junior Jason Basil to lay down a squeeze bunt.

With Teixeira breaking for home, Basil attempted the bunt and missed. Teixeira scrambled back towards third as Spartan catcher Jesse Martin chased. Martin's throw to third sailed over the third baseman's head into the outfield, and allowed Teixeira to coast into home for the game-winning run.

Junior Andy Mitchell picked up his first win of the season for the Jackets as he shut down the Spartans in the final 2 1/3 innings with three strikeouts.

The stars of this series were Lewis, who went 5 for 8, Teixeira, who went 2 for 6 with 1 RBI, Bryan Prince who went 7 for 9 with 6 RBI, and Victor Menocal, who sported a 3 for 8 mark with 3 RBI.

Tech next plays at a tournament in California against top ranked opponents, No. 7 Southern California this afternoon, against No. 4 ranked Cal State Fullerton tomorrow, and against perennial power Mississippi State on Sunday.

These games will be a tough test for the now No. 10 ranked Jackets and will let them see how far they have gelled as a team and will also prepare them for the tough road to the college world series.

The Yellow Jackets will then return home for a three game series against Connecticut on March 10-12.

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Women's basketball team ends season on a winning note



Dale Russell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Danielle Donnehew played her final home game last Sunday against Maryland. She leaves with the lead in career threes in school history.

By David Williams

Gets to say good-bye to Bobby

The Georgia Tech Lady Yellow Jackets finished the regular season with a convincing victory at home against Maryland, winning 60-49. Three players scored in double figures for the Jackets led by sophomore Milli Martinez who had 14 coming off the bench. The win gave Tech the sixth seed going into the ACC Tournament and a winning season (14-12 overall, 7-9 ACC).

It was the last home game ever for senior Danielle Donnehew who is from Canton, Georgia. The 5'8" shooting ace is the career leader in three pointers made at Tech and was recently named to the District 3 All-America Academic Team for GTE majoring in Industrial Engineering. Donnehew was honored for her efforts before the game as a show of appreciation for what she has done for the program.

Tech quickly went to work, though, once the festivities were over with junior Regina Tate scoring a basket to open the game 2-0 in favor of Tech. Tate then made a steal but could not convert the basket. The Jackets kept it rolling with a three from freshman Amy Lingenfelder and a 2 from junior Jaime Kruppa. Head Coach Agnus Berenato chose to go with a 2-3 zone on defense daring Maryland to shoot from the outside and prevent Maryland star

DeeDee Warley from getting good position inside. It didn't work as Marche' Strickland dropped a three from the left wing. Maryland also was very successful in making entry passes into the post so Tech went to a 1-3-1 hoping to cut off the passing lanes and trap the wings. The rest of the half was characterized by Maryland playing very aggressive defense as Tech had a really tough time making passes to the block. Coach Berenato continued to practice her frequent substitution scheme using many different lineups. One of those lineups included Martinez who was swapped with Donnehew very frequently sometimes touching the floor for only ten or fifteen seconds. Martinez still managed to make several steals and score 4 points in a row as Tech pushed their lead to 6, 19-13 with six minutes left in the half. Tate was on fire garnering several rebounds and knocking down the eight footer jumper off several set inbounds plays. The consistent play left Tech up six at the end of the half 25-19.

Tech came out very strong in the second half led by a Kruppa two and a Lingenfelder three to go up 30-19. Tech made it 32-23 as Tate passed to Kruppa for the layin on the baseline as the rest of the game began to take shape. Maryland called timeout in an effort to stop the run and they did for a little scoring five points in a row coming out of the huddle. But that was as close as they would get as Tech went on a 20-6 run highlighted by several Martinez assists, steals, and layins. The crowd got a little anxious as Tate picked up her fourth foul at the 11:12 mark forcing Berenato to use 6'4" freshman Sonja Mallory. Mallory responded by immediately grabbing a rebound, running the floor, and making a layup off an assist from Candice McCallum all in the span of 30 seconds. Donnehew dropped a three to make it 47-31 and the rout was on as Berenato's substitution scheme began to bear fruit keeping fresh players on the floor while Maryland still had four starters on the court.

The end was highlighted by Martinez who stole the ball and passed to freshman Alex Stewart. Stewart kept the ball in the middle and flipped it back to Martinez who finished with the layin bringing the crowd to its feet. Tate finished with nine rebounds and 10 points while Kruppa had 5 and 13 on a very efficient 6-10 shooting.

Donnehew, who finished with two threes, had this to say. "I don't care if I shoot bad. The goal is to go the postseason in any form, NCAA, NIT whatever, and that is what matters most."

When asked about what it will take for Tech not to make the early exits from the ACC Tourney that they have the past two years, Tate had this to say "We're a totally different team from those teams. We have more heart. All we have to do is relax and play. We also know that to make the NCAA we have to sweep the tourney, and I feel we can play with anybody."

Coach Agnus Berenato was elated. "Tonight was the biggest win in our history. We want an NCAA bid and anything is possible. I'm just happy for the whole program."

Tech won the NIT in 1992 under Berenato and made its first ever appearance in the NCAA Tourney the following year. It was their last.

The win helped Tech because they will play N.C. State in the first round, who they beat just last week. They will not play Florida State in the first game, whom they lost badly to at FSU and by three at home. This year's team has a very good chance to win the ACC Tournament and get the automatic

bid to go to the NCAA Tourney.

Check the Lady Yellow Jackets out in their first round game against N.C. State tomorrow. The tournament will be played in Greensboro, N.C.

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Tennis hopes to extend winning streak



Dale Russell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Freshman Mysti Morris will occupy the middle of the tennis team's lineup this weekend as they try to extend their winning streak to four matches.

By David Carl

Looking forward to ACC Tourney

Looking to maintain the momentum gained from three straight victories, Georgia Tech's 49th-ranked women's tennis team takes on non-conference opponents Auburn and Chattanooga before the Yellow Jackets open Atlantic Coast Conference play.

The Yellow Jackets (5-1), who have shutout their last three opponents, host 48th-ranked Auburn at 12 noon Sunday and Chattanooga at 2 p.m. Monday at the Bill Moore Tennis Center.

"I want us to keep the momentum going that we've built up as we take on an Auburn team that is ranked ahead of us," said Tech head coach Bryan Shelton.

"I want us to go out and play with confidence. I feel like we have a much better team than our ranking indicates. I believe we are developing into a solid team, so I am looking forward to us stepping up before we get into the ACC matches. I'm expecting Auburn and Chattanooga to be competitive tests for us."

Six matches into the dual-match season, Shelton's lineup has taken shape.

Senior Sabrina Pardo has a 5-1 dual-match record at the No. 1 position. All five of her wins have come in straight sets. She won at No. 1 singles last Saturday to clinch Tech's 9-0 victory over Pennsylvania.

Junior Bobbi Guthrie is also 5-1 in dual matches playing from the No. 2 slot. She also had a singles victory against Penn last weekend.

Freshmen Mysti Morris, Jaime Wong and Charlotte Pernet occupy the middle

of the lineup, while sophomore Laura Ozolins has played primarily at No. 6.

After some early juggling, Shelton has also found some good combinations in doubles with Guthrie and Pardo at No. 1, Morris and Wong at No. 2 and Ozolins and Pernet at No. 3.

"I think everybody is playing where they should be on our team right now," Shelton said. "We're making progress in doubles. I feel good about the teams we've put together.

"We haven't had any matches come down to doubles yet because we've been clinching our matches in singles.

"It's just a matter of time before we'll find out how good we are in doubles when we have to have a win."

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Golf team looks to be on fire as they capture their second straight victory



Photo courtesy of Georgia Tech Sports Information

Matt Kuchar, who is ranked third in the Mastercard rankings, played a key role in the team's victory in Puerto Rico, shooting a 68 on day two.

By Brian Thomas

Down Under

The Georgia Tech golf team captured its second straight event on Tuesday as it won the San Juan Shootout in Puerto Rico. The win on the heels of the Jackets' triumph at the Waikoloa Intercollegiate two weeks ago moved the Jackets to number one in the Mastercard Collegiate Golf Foundation Poll. The Mastercard poll, released weekly during the season and administered by Golfstat, is one of two major polls used in collegiate golf.

The other poll, the Golfweek rankings produced by the Jeff Sagarin system, has had Tech number one since last fall. Tech is followed in the Mastercard rankings by Clemson, Northwestern, Oklahoma State, and Arizona State. In the Golfweek rankings, Tech is followed by Oklahoma State, Clemson, BYU, and Northwestern. In the Mastercard individual rankings, junior Bryce Molder is number one with a rating of 197.725. He is followed by Clemson's Lucas Grover with a 196.82 rating and senior teammate Matt Kuchar who is ranked third with a rating of 194.3. In the Golfweek individual rankings, Molder is ranked third and Kuchar is ranked fourth.

It was the solid play of Kuchar, Molder, and sophomore Kris Mikkelsen that allowed Tech to capture the three-day event in Puerto Rico held Sunday through Tuesday. The Jackets finished with an 11-under par 284-282-287-

853 total over the three days and defeated Northwestern by four strokes. Kuchar led the Jackets as he finished tied for fourth by shooting four-under par with a 73-68-71-212. His 68 on day two propelled the Jackets into the lead. Molder was the individual leader after the second day having fired a 67 and a 70, but he shot a 77 on the final day dropping him to a tie for eighth at two-under par. Tied with him was teammate Mikkelsen who carried the Tech banner on the final day carding a 69, which gave him a two-under par 72-73-69-214. It was the first time this season that Tech had three players finish in the top ten of the individual competition.

For Molder, it was business as usual as it was his seventh top-ten finish of the year. Redshirt-freshman Troy Matteson finished tied for 29th with a score of 220, and senior Carlton Forrester finished 35th with a 220. The Jackets had finished second at the San Juan Shootout each of the past two years before breaking through this season.

At the Waikoloa Intercollegiate two weeks earlier, it was the Kuchar and Molder show again, as the pair each shot a six-under par 208 and finished tied for first.

Their heroics allowed the Jackets to stake a convincing victory in the team competition. Tech finished with a three day score of 281-279-295=855, one-under par and eight shots better than second place Arizona State. It was the second straight year that the Jackets had captured the event.

In addition to these two triumphs, the Jackets have also won the Carpet Capital Collegiate and finished second at the Golf World Invitational.

Next up for the newly crowned top-ranked Jackets is the Golf Digest Intercollegiate in Las Vegas, taking place March 10-12.