Number of inches between Georgia Tech’s 7-foot-1 center Luke Schenscher and the Houston Rocker’s 7-foot-5 center Yao Ming. Ming, a native of China, matched up with the Tech sophomore at a game during Schenscher’s tour of China as an Australian national team member this past summer.

Number of points that sophomore B.J. Elder averages per ACC game. Elder has been the leading scorer for the Yellow Jacket team this season, becoming what Coach Paul Hewitt calls “college basketball’s biggest secret.”

Number of games left in the regular season for the women’s basketball team. The Lady Jackets face Virginia, becoming what Coach Paul Elder has been the leading scorer and the Houston Rocket’s 7-foot-5 center Yao Ming. Ming, a native of China, matched up with the Tech sophomore at a game during Schenscher’s tour of China as an Australian national team member this past summer.

Jackets top Terps, fall to Pack

By Al Przygocki
Senior Staff Writer

On All-Star Sunday in Atlanta, the Jackets played like All-Stars in taking down last year’s national champions, eighth-ranked Maryland, by a 90-84 margin. Tech improved to 12-8 overall and 5-4 in the ACC on the strength of their 11th straight home win this season in front of a sellout crowd.

Jarrett Jack, a Maryland native, led the charge with eight assists and a career-high 20 points, with the biggest points coming off a banked-in three-pointer with 39 seconds to play. The Terrapins had rallied back from a 13-point deficit to cut the lead to two at 82-80. The bunker was a backbreaker that capped a solid all-around team effort.

Jack’s previous career-high of 16 points came in Tech’s previous best-win-to-date against UGA back at Thanksgiving. On the crucial play against Maryland, head coach Paul Hewitt wanted to run a pick-and-roll for a close look at the basket. Perhaps inspired by the presence of his idol and Tech great Stephon Marbury, Jack had other plans.

Silly freshman, he just kind of went where he felt like going. Hewitt said, grinning, “Good thing.”

“Jack breaks your back,” Maryland’s senior guard Drew Nicholas said. “When I saw the shot go through the net, I knew it was over. The momentum was pretty much ours the last 10 and a half minutes, but you’ve got to play 40 minutes.”

B.J. Elder led the attack for Tech with 23 points, causing head coach Paul Hewitt to declare, “He’s col-

Jackets ink 20 recruits, top 40 spot

By Clark Nelson
Contributing Writer

Georgia Tech signed 20 student-athletes to national letters of intent to play football for the Jackets on Feb. 5. Coach Chan Gailey and the staff addressed some key needs at the quarterback position and on the defensive side of the ball.

Leading the class of incoming freshmen are: Kenny Scott, a USA Today Prep All-American from Daytona Beach, Florida; Rashuan Grant, a running back from Tampa, quarterback Reggie Ball from Atlanta. The Jackets signed nine players from the sunshine state.

Tech inked 12 players to play defense, including five defensive backs, four linebackers, and three defensive linemen.

“We covered a lot of areas, and we were able to get some quality players at a lot of positions, particu-
larly on the defensive side of the ball,” said Gailey.

The Jackets added a total of three quarterbacks, including Al Penna of Cedar City, Texas, who has already

Rhino signs as free agent with CFL

Georgia Tech punt returner/cut-
backer Kelley Rhino has signed a free agent contract with the Montreal Alouettes of the Canadian Foot-
ball League, the team announced today. Rhino holds a Georgia Tech school records with 1,135 punt return numbers on 112 returns. He fin-
ished his collegiate career ranked second in ACC history in both catego-
ries.

Famed basketball coach dies

Long-time Georgia Tech basket-
ball coach John “Whack” Hy-
der died Sunday at the age of 90. Hyder coached the Yellow Jackets from 1951-52 through 1972-73, compiling an overall record of 292-271. His time at Tech was high-
lighted by the Jackets’ first NCAA Tournament appearance in 1960, as well as two trips to the NIT.

Jack named ACC Rookie of Week

Freshman point guard Jarrett Jack, who averaged 17.5 points and 5.5 assists in two games last week, was named Rookie of the Week by the ACC. In Sunday’s 90-84 win over No. 8 Maryland, Jack scored a career-high 20 points, including six of Tech’s last eight points in the final minute. Jack also had eight assists in the game.

O-team’s O’Brien resigns position

Tech defensive coordinator, Bill O’Brien resigned last Friday to take on a job at Maryland with Ralph Friedgen’s staff. O’Brien spent the past eight years on the Yellow Jack-
ets’ staff in various positions, the last two as the team’s offensive co-

Gailey looks to pull from previ-
ous relationships in his professional career, or possibly promote from within his current staff to replace O’Brien.

Two Jackets set records in Florida

Georgia Tech junior Kyle Rab-
birt broke a 16-year-old school record in the 3000 meters and sophomore Shanta Smith eclipsed her own Tech mark in the triple jump at Florida’s Gator Invitational.

Rabbit had a time of 8:11.98, breaking the previous mark of 8:12.51 set by Eric Smith in 1987. Smith leap of 11’10.25” to finish fifth in the meet and break the record she set at last year’s conference championships (11’10.75”). See Page 34 for more.

By Scott McAvoy / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS
Gailey’s Recruits

from page 36

enrolled for the spring semester and will compete in spring practice. Georgia Tech will have six new players from the state of Texas.

In addition to Pena, Reggie Ball and Pat Carter of St. Petersburg, Florida will join the Jackets. Ball was a first team all-state selection and a member of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution’s Super Southern 100, he threw for more than 2,000 yards and 19 touchdowns this past season.

Carter, brother of New York Giants wide receiver Tim Carter, was ranked as the No. 19 quarterback in the nation by one recruiting service. All three of the quarterbacks are very athletic and run very well, a trend to be continued in recruiting for Tech.

“None of the quarterbacks that we are recruiting and will continue to recruit are just drop-back passers. They all have the ability to move and make some things happen with their feet as well as their arms.”

Chan Gailey
Head Coach

“We were able to get some quality players at a lot of positions, particularly on the defensive side of the ball.”

Chan Gailey
Head Coach

Rivals.com rated Kenny Scott as the fifth-best cornerback in the nation after starting all four years at Sebastian. Scott figures to see action early in the Jackets depleted secondary.

Cornerback Sam Williams is from nearby May’s High, the same school that produced Kelly Campbell. Joining him is Brian Fleuridor of Boca Raton, Florida, Avery Robertson of Atlanta, and Joe Gaston of Marietta. Robertson was a member of the Super 11 in Georgia and ranked the No. 19 safety in the nation by Rivals.com.

Tech’s recruiting class has all qualified academically and has been widely regarded as a Top 40 class in the nation with LSU, Florida, and Southern Cal leading the way.
Beyond the White and Gold

Looking forward to some Irish soccer

By John Parsons
Senior Staff Writer

A few buddies and I are working on a trip to Europe this summer, particularly focusing on the British Isles. Of course being the soccer fiend that I am, I am trying to get tickets to a Euro 2004 qualifier.

Two of the match days for the qualifying stages will be on June 7 and 11. We’ll be there. We hope to get into the Ireland vs. Albania match.

At this point some of you are pondering why I would put my life at risk like that. You are the ones that don’t pay close enough attention to whose fans do what.

It’s the English fans, not the Irish, who have a nasty habit of sparking deadly riots in conjunction with international matches.

Irish fans on the other hand, are easily the best in the world. They sing, dance, scream, chant, and, best of all, they don’t kill anyone.

“Irish fans are easily the best in the world. How can I be faulted for wanting to participate in that—and tip back a few Guinesses with the locals?”

“Irish fans are easily the best in the world. How can I be faulted for wanting to participate in that—and tip back a few Guinesses with the locals?”

“Ultimately, the team doctors left the decision up to Keane, but you can still see the bruises from the 2x4 they used to persuade him.”

“Ultimately, the team doctors left the decision up to Keane, but you can still see the bruises from the 2x4 they used to persuade him.”

You not to make you turn the page, though I expect I have succeeded in doing that in many cases already.

Instead, I’d like to give you background as to why I feel my chosen topic this week is far more important than the LeBron watch, the NBA All-Star game, or the 49ers head coach hiring (which I’ll go on the record as saying is a bad one).

The foremost sports thought on my mind is Irishman Roy Keane’s decision to retire from international soccer.

Last summer, Keane was sent home from the World Cup by then-manager Mick McCarthy for his constant criticism of the Irish training facilities in the far east.

Even without Keane, by far their most talented player, Ireland made the Round of 16, thanks largely to the incredible fan support. McCarthy resigned in November and Ireland hired Brian Kerr, a youth coach of Keane’s. This led to speculation that Keane might once again don the green jersey for Ireland, and all signs pointed in that direction after a productive meeting between the Kerr and Keane.

In stepped Manchester United’s team doctors. They decided that Roy was not fit to undertake the burden of international play while playing for their club.

“Ultimately, the team doctors left the decision up to Keane, but you can still see the bruises from the 2x4 they used to persuade him.”

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Roy was not fit to undertake the burden of international play while playing for their club.

Ultimately, the team doctors left the decision up to Keane, but you can still see the bruises from the 2x4 they used to persuade him.

Say, this reminds me of a joke often told by Liverpool fans. What two English soccer clubs have cuss words in their names? Answer: Arsenal and Man (expletive deleted) U.

Yeah, leave it to the Yankees of English soccer to crap all over what would have been a great story.

Not to mention the fact that there is now no chance of me getting to see Keane in action this summer. Man, I’m pissed.

Track takes records

By Finny Turner
Contributing Writer

In their last meet before the ACC Championships, the Yellow Jacket track teams proved that they are ready to walk away as the victors on both the men’s and women’s sides.

Tech traveled to Gainesville, Florida last weekend to compete in the Gator Invitational against 12 nationally ranked teams in Florida’s O’Connell Center.

Georgia Tech junior Kyle Rabbitt broke a 16-year-old school record in the 3000 meters and sophomore Shanta Smith passed her own Tech mark in the triple jump Sunday, as the teams posted a solid showing at the highly competitive meet.

Rabbitt took fourth in the 3000 with a time of 8:11.98, breaking the previous record of 8:12.51 held by Eric Smith in 1987. This mark is
Youth smashes experience 11-1 in alumni baseball game

Al Przygocki
Senior Staff Writer

Behind home runs from Matt Murton, Tyler Greene, and Micah Owings, the current version of the Johnin' Jackets trounced their predecessors 11-1.

Opening day starter Kyle Bakker tossed six strong shutout innings for the win, giving up only two singles while striking out four. Owings took time out from his slugging heroes to pitch two shutout innings in relief. Nick Wagner closed out the win for the top-ranked Jackets.

The 14-hit, 11-run onslaught came from a balanced attack led by Greene going 3-for-3 with a home run, a triple, and a stolen base. All-American second baseman Eric Patterson chipped in with two hits, and seemingly every Yellow Jacket reached base or drove in a run.

In a combination of freshman bonding and respect for fifth-year senior captain Matthew Swain, the new guys all shaved off their high school locks in favor of bald heads. Under hats that were suddenly too large for them, the first year players all played remarkably well. Stephen Blackwood, Andy Hawranick, and Ryan Stanley joined Greene and Swain, Andy Hawranick, and Ryan Stanley all played remarkably well. Stephen Blackwood, Andy Hawranick, and Ryan Stanley joined Greene and Swain, Andy Hawranick, and Ryan Stanley all played remarkably well.

In addition to the recent grads, the game even saw two Mike Sorries to pitch two shutout innings in relief. Nick Wagner closed out the win for the top-ranked Jackets.

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The No. 19 Lady Jackets began their 2003 campaign last Saturday in the Gamecock Invitational where they finished the weekend with a 2-2 record. They defeated Boston College twice and lost to each South Carolina and UNC Greensboro.

The Lady Jackets' hitting should lead to a matchup with defending National Invitational Softball tournament champion Missouri last year. Coach Madden insists. Taking over at third this year will be freshman Lauren Schlechtriem, a second-team all-state honoree in Missouri last year. Coach Madden has confidence that she will perform well.

"Lauren has a great arm and good instincts," said Madden. "All she needs is experience and time to adjust to our defensive philosophy."

The Lady Jackets will need to welcome back their old favorites. Randy Carroll, stepped briefly into first position player All-America, Randy Carroll, stepped briefly into first position player All-America. From Jim Luck to Jim Morris which, if only briefly, replaced the deep past and some in between, this was a solid squad. With no Varitek, no Jay Payton, no Kevin Owings in making solid debuts. Ryan Stanley joined Greene and Blackwood, Andy Hawranick, and Ryan Stanley all played remarkably well. Stephen Blackwood, Andy Hawranick, and Ryan Stanley all played remarkably well.

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Rabbitt’s second school record of the season, as he established a new standard in the 5000 meters at the Terrier Invitational.

The defending ACC indoor champion, Smith leaped 41’11.25” in the triple jump to finish fifth in the meet and break the record she set at last year’s conference championships (41’10.75”). Smith’s performance also provisionally qualifies her for the 2003 NCAA Indoor Championships. Tech’s women now have five different provisional qualifiers.

“I have a lot of high hopes for ACC’s. Our squad has been performing really well every week and we have a lot of really great freshman. It is in God’s hands from here, hopefully he will be glorified,” Smith said.

The Jackets lone victory on the day came from freshman Chaunte Howard, who won the high jump at the third consecutive meet. She equaled a season-best with a mark of 5’11.25”. Teammate Megan Byrd took 10th in the event with a season-best mark of 5’4.25”.

Howard commented on the fact that she is really excited about being apart of the team by saying, “I am glad to be apart of such a great team. They won ACC’s last year and I know that we can beat UNC this year if we continue on our present path.”

Tech’s women also had several other 2003 bests on the afternoon. Senior Amy Dock was third in the 3000 meters with a season-best time of 10:04.11, while sophomore Dana Rogers took sixth in the 55-meter hurdles in 7.91 and senior Jessica DeFreitas placed seventh in the long jump with a leap of 19’11.00”. In addition, freshman Jessica Graff took fourth in the pole vault.

“Last week’s performance was really good going into ACC’s. We are definitely able to beat UNC and defend our championships,” Rogers said.

The men also had several strong showings, led by Brendon Mahoney’s fourth-place finish in the 800 meters. He ran a season-best 1:51.02.

“I think that we have come together as a team this year. Our talent and hard work has shown everyone what we can do in the Atlantic Coast Conference. If we compete like we are able to, then we will be the ACC champions next weekend. Our team unity has been strong this year so that will help us win our first ACC championship,” Mahoney said.

Freshman Rob Kuhn also had a season-best of 4:21.42 in a ninth-place finish in the mile. Additionally, sophomore Brian Ford ran 21.92 in the 200 meters, which ranks a best for this indoor season. Senior Brian Fraser (23’2.75”) and freshman I-Perfection Harris (23’2.00”) placed eighth and ninth in the long jump, while junior Michael Massey (6’7.00”) was seventh in high jump.

A fellow jumper, Jessica DeFreitas commented on their performance by saying, “ACC’s are going to be tough to win this year, but if we go in and compete at the level that we are capable of, we should be able to pull it off. Brian Fraser and Christopher Crawley are showing great improvement in the jumps.”

“The football players, Dennis Davis, Reuben Houston and I-Perfection Harris are a big help for the team,” Defreitas added. “The boys have a good chance of winning ACC’s this year, and it would be great if both teams win this year.”

Tech returns to action next weekend at the Clemson Invitational before heading to the ACC Indoor Championships, February 21-22, in Chapel Hill, NC.

See supplemental coverage online: www.ramblingwreck.com.
Intramural Notebook

with Jack. B. Nimble

Beta-FIJI battle provide fan fun

This week’s notebook features the women’s basketball matchup between the second-ranked Phi Mu ladies and sixth-ranked ADPi.

Phi Mu held the top spot until Romans claimed it last week with a win to push their record to 3-0, while Phi Mu had the week off.

The first spurt of the game was an 8-0 run by ADPi, fueled by a pair of threes, to erase an early 4-2 Phi Mu lead.

Phi Mu responded with a 12-0 run of their own to take a 16-10 lead and coasted to a 20-13 halftime lead.

After trading easy buckets to start the second half, Phi Mu’s suffocating press held ADPi without a point for the next nine minutes as they built a 26-15 lead.

When ADPi ended their drought with a quick three points, Phi Mu called a timeout to regroup, then proceeded to glide to a 37-25 win.

Phi Mu was led by a 15-point performance from Fran Balkcom, an 8-0 run by teammate Lou Anne Hudson, and 11 rebounds for his ninth double-figure game and only 33-percent in the first half.

Tech’s loss to Clemson was a setback, but the win over Maryland undid most of the damage. With the loss to NC State, the Jackets position in the big dance is uncertain. Two wins this week would go a long way towards securing a berth in the big dance. Still, being back on the bubble is better than on the outside looking in.

Beta had a man sent off in a profanity-laced mooning incident.

In other intramural news, or should I say intramural incidents, Beta beat FIJI with a 1-0 score in A-league soccer. The entire match was heated, with both sides body checking the other. Both teams’ sidelines kept the tension high throughout the game.

But the score and the sidelines weren’t the real news. Beta had a man sent off in a profanity-laced mooning incident that left Beta with a 1.00 in sportsmanship for the game.

I guess he liked that Nike soccer-streaker commercial just a little too much.