Tech hockey opener ends in split with Longhorns

By Michael Clarke
Contribution Writer

Tech hockey split last weekend’s showdown in its home opener with the University of Texas at Austin.

Texas opened the Friday series with an early goal by Don Powers. On Tech’s Bill Lindmark’s third shift of the game, the shaft of his stick snapped. Then Jamie Ledyard stepped up the effort for the Yellow Jackets. He scored on a power play at the 11:45 mark of the first period. Jay Simonini scored at 14:58 giving Tech the lead that they would never give up. Thierprayon, Shandolow and Jacobs followed in the third period with goals to give Tech an even larger cushion.

“It sure felt good to destroy the [Texas] guys,” said Simonini.

Goalie Roland Sperlich attributed Tech falling behind earlier in the game to “three early miscues.” Tech ended up winning their first home game 5-1.

However, in the second game Tech started off slow. “Homecoming events had a lot to do with the slow start,” said Sperlich. “Many of the younger players are not accustomed to playing games so close together, and didn’t prepare themselves properly.”

Texas opened up scoring 4:58 into the first period after taking advantage of a pass that went through the legs of Kirby and scoring the first short-handed goal of the season against Tech. Chang snuck past the Longhorn defense and collected a pass to score on another breakaway.

Several first period penalties had Tech reeling and the sloppiness continued as Tech gave Texas a two-man advantage at the end of the first period. Texas capitalized and made the score 3-0. Tech needed something positive to happen and quickly. Simoni stepped up and scored on a power play early in the second. Mike Zaucha followed shortly there after with a goal of his own.

At the end of the second period, Texas tried to put the final nail in Tech’s coffin as they scored a goal to give them a two-goal lead going into the third period, but fortunately for Tech the goal was overturned because of the Texas player kicking the puck into the neck. Ledyard opened up the third period with a goal less than a minute in to even up the score at three.

The third period was hard fought as the Texas team really went after Tech and injured four players during the period.Tech stood its ground, but Texas was able to score a goal with less than three minutes to go in the game. Tech was unable to respond and the final score was 4-3 Texas.

Tech had several players go down at some point in time over the weekend to injury. Sweeney hit the boards hard in the opener and re-aggravated an old knee injury. In the second game, Sweeney injured his wrist and thumb, Thierprayon injured his knee, Zaucha took a shot to the wrist after scoring his second goal and Shandolow took a hit to the head.

Tech will play two more games next weekend. On Oct. 18 at 6 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., the team will face off against Washington. The games will once again be held at Ice Atlanta.
New ACC schedule creates new rivalries, ends old

By Andy Holt

Those who are thinking of graduating in the next two years should try and remember this weekend’s game, as it is the last time Tech will face Wake Forest on the gridiron for a while. And the close loss to the Seminoles? It was the last shot at breaking their undefeated streak against the Jackets until at least the 2006-2007 season.

The ACC recently released a new scheduling system for the next two seasons that incorporates the additions of Miami and Virginia Tech into the conference.

With consideration given to traditional rivalries, new inter-conference showdowns and the ever-important issue of filling stadiums, the new schedule brings some key additions and losses to the Jackets’ yearly lineup.

Next year will bring a potent home schedule to Grant Field. Miami, Virginia Tech and Virginia will all come to town, as will perennial ACC basement-dweller Duke. With both Miami and Virginia Tech almost permanent fixtures in the top 10, the games will pose great challenges for Tech.

"With both Miami and Virginia Tech almost permanent fixtures in the top 10, the games will pose great challenges for Tech."

“I am upset that we are losing the great FSU rivalry; however, I am very happy that we are playing Miami and Virginia Tech,” said Andrew Howard, a fourth year Computer Science major.

In basketball, each team in the 11-member conference will play two conference rivals four times each, in-home-and-home series. Tech will play each of the other teams home-and-home one season and once the following season. Tech’s rival games are against Clemson and Wake Forest.

The basketball schedule is not as affected by the addition of another team because the length of the season can accommodate another three conference games.

Since the ACC is the nation’s premier college basketball conference, more conference games will increase the quality of basketball the fans at the Coliseum will get to see.

The postseason tournaments will be affected as well. All 11 teams will play in the tournament, with the top five teams getting byes into the quarterfinal round and the remaining six teams playing in the first round.

Women’s basketball will play 14 league games. Tech will play four ACC teams twice and six ACC teams once. Final decisions on who will play the men’s team home-and-home and FSU will be missed.

“I’m excited to be playing big teams like Miami and Virginia Tech. If we can’t beat one Florida team, we’ll beat another.”

Jonathan Layer
Management major

Athletic Director Dave Braine said, “The concepts in football and basketball are good.” Braine acknowledged that games against Wake and FSU will be missed.

“We are very fortunate in men’s and women’s basketball,” he said.

Braine added that Tech fared better than the other four schools in football because it does not have to face the powerhouse trio of Florida State, Miami and Virginia Tech in one season.

When asked as to whether the addition of another team to the ACC to make a 12-team ACC would affect the new schedule, Braine said that he “personally wants to add another team” and believes that expansion was meant to make a 12-member conference. However, any team added now would not become a member until after the 2004-2005 season.

The student body’s reactions to the decision have been positive as well.

“I’m excited to be playing big teams like Miami and Virginia Tech. If we can’t beat one Florida team, we’ll beat another,” said Jonathan Layer, a third year Management major.

He also said he was looking forward to tailgating in Miami in 2005.

in the real world you have to write
clearly cleanly concisely

TECHNIQUE
Investigating the Limbaugh controversy

By David Rottman
Contributing Writer

Now that the media firestorm has somewhat followed pasting the Rush Limbaugh and Donovan McNabb controversy, one is able to look back on the statement and objectively determine whether Limbaugh’s point is valid.

For those of you who have no idea what I am talking about, during ESPN’s Sept. 28 telecast of Sunday NFL Countdown, Limbaugh said the following statements: “I don’t think he’s (McNabb) been that good from the get-go. I think what we’ve had here is a little social concern in the NFL. The media has been very desirous that a black quarterback do well. There is little hope invested in McNabb, and he got a lot of credit for the performance of this team that he didn’t deserve. The defense carried this team.”

Limbaugh has subsequently retracted his post from ESPN, citing on his radio show that his desire was to prevent his colleagues on the show from receiving flak. Some have hypothesized that this statement was actually a convenient time for Limbaugh to bow out before the accusations of illegally obtaining painkillers came to the forefront. Whether or not that is the case, it is neither here nor there. I am concerned with the content of Limbaugh’s statement.

Let’s start with Limbaugh’s first point—that McNabb hasn’t been that great from the outset. If you look at his career numbers, that argument seems to hold up. McNabb has a passer rating for his career of 77.0 and a completion percentage of 56.3, while averaging just 5.9 yards per attempt. These are hardly numbers worthy of being deemed one of the elite quarterbacks in the NFL. Granted McNabb has had some very good statistical years, especially when his rushing totals are factored in.

By looking at these three statistics, Limbaugh’s point has some validity. His final point is that the Eagles defense carried that team. This is true. In McNabb’s tenure in Philadelphia, the Eagles have never ranked higher than No.10 in the league in yards gained offensively and never ranked lower than No.10 in yards allowed defensively. The 2002 season is the perfect example of the Eagles relying on their defense. The Eagles were 7-3 with McNabb starting and 5-1 while he was injured. The two quarter-backs during the 5-1 stretch at the end of the season were Koy Detmer and A.J. Feeley. If you just asked “Who”, you are not alone. Apparently brother of Ty Detmer and the guy who preceded gigantic Akili Smith at Oregon were good enough to lead the Eagles to an 83.5 winning percentage. Thanks to the defense of course.

Race is the center of the controversy surrounding Limbaugh’s statement. This part of Rush’s statement comes in two parts: there is some political correctness in the NFL, and that McNabb was over-hyped in the media because he is black. Again Limbaugh is correct about the first part. The NFL is a very politically correct stage, most notably the new hiring process where teams are required to seriously consider minority coaches for the position. Even if you don’t view this policy as political correctness, it is completely unreasonable to pose the question that political correctness exists in NFL Headquarters! No, of course not.

Limbaugh is right that McNabb is over-hyped by the media. However, he slightly misses the mark as to why. The media does have a little hope invested in McNabb, but it is not solely because he is black. Black quarterbacks have been successful in the past. Doug Williams, Warren Moon and Randall Cunninham come to mind.

Even in today’s era, there are several black quarterbacks starting for NFL teams. The list includes some pretty successful gainers at that: McNabb, Daunte Culpepper, Mike Vick, Steve McNair and Aaron Brooks.

But out of this group, McNabb is the biggest star, and not because he is the most productive (McNair) or the most exciting (Vick). Rather McNabb has the most marketable personality. In other words, he’s a black quarterback that can sell products to middle America. McNabb is young, good-looking, charismatic and an African-American athlete who happens to play quarterback. That is why he is over-hyped.

To refute Rush’s claim that McNabb is over-hyped because he is a black quarterback, one only has to look to the Tennessee Titans’ McNair. McNair may be one of the most underrated players in the NFL today. He is an efficient passer, a dangerous runner, extremely durable and a guy you want with the ball in his hands when the game is on the line.

Is Rush Limbaugh’s opinion on Donovan McNabb debatable? Sure. I think he makes a rather decent point overall. But regardless of whether it is sound football analysis or a correct depiction of the media, the statement itself is not racist. Yet our hypersensitive society can’t take the opinion for what it is and debate it in a rational sense. Instead we are left with reactionary charges of racism and ad hominem attacks. Let’s keep this debate in the sports world.

To those in Washington who want to use this as a free shot to bash Rush Limbaugh, shut up and get back to work.
Georgia Tech (3-3) vs. Wake Forest (3-2)

Preview By: David Rottman

Quarterback:
Reggie Ball was ridiculous against N.C. State last week. The true freshman was 24-37 for 283 yards and two touchdowns. He also ran in a touchdown. He earned his third ACC Rookie of the Week on the season for his performance against the Wolfpack.

Wake Forest’s Cory Randolph is having a statistically similar season to Ball. His completion percentage is higher, but his passing and rushing yards are lower. Both have thrown four touchdowns and five interceptions. However, Reggie Ball seems to just make plays when the Jackets need them.

Advantage: Tech

Running Back:
Sophomore P.J. Daniels continues to have a great year for the Jackets. Daniels had 99 yards on 25 carries against the Wolfpack. The former walk-on also caught six balls out of the backfield for 37 yards.

Wake Forest will use a platoon of running backs to handle the rushing duties. Chris Barclay will get a majority of the carries with Cornelius Briggs and wide-out Willie Idlette getting some touches. The Demon Deacons average 157 yards rushing per game.

Advantage: Tech

Offensive Line:
The Jackets’ offensive line has not lived up to the preseason hype. However, they still are talented even though they have allowed 19 sacks on the year, Center Hugh Reilly and tackle Nat Dorsey anchor the line.

Wake Forest’s o-line has played well this season, allowing only four sacks and clearing running lanes. Tackle Tyson Clabo has started 29 consecutive games.

Advantage: Even

Secondary:
The Georgia Tech secondary thrives when it doesn’t have to cover for very long. Despite their inexperience, they still are talented even though they have allowed 19 sacks on the year, Center Hugh Reilly and tackle Nat Dorsey anchor the line.

Wake Forest’s o-line has played well this season, allowing only four sacks and clearing running lanes. Tackle Tyson Clabo has started 29 consecutive games.

Advantage: Even

Wide Receivers:
Jonathan Smith and Nate Curry are the go-to guys for Reggie Ball. Smith has 33 receptions for 531 yards and one touchdown to lead the Jackets. Curry has come on strong recently with 22 catches for 250 yards and one score.

Jason Anderson is the main threat for Cory Randolph. The 6’3” junior has 21 receptions for 364 yards and three touchdowns.

Advantage: Even

Linebackers:
There is no one on N.C. State’s linebacking corps that can match the big play ability of Keyaron Fox or the consistent solid play of Daryl Smith. The Wolfpack linebackers are led by a duo of juniors, Freddie Aughty-Lindsay and Pat Thomas. Aughty-Lindsay is their big play threat from this position and Thomas is the guy that steadies the group but they can’t match up to Tech’s double threat of Smith and Fox.

Advantage: Tech

Defensive Line:
The Yellow Jackets have a good young defensive line. Eric Henderson is a big time player and is averaging a sack a game. The Tech front four is responsible for nine of the Jackets 16 sacks on the year.

Wake’s d-line has done little in the way of pressure on the quarterback. End Jerome Nichols is the only lineman with a sack for the Deacons, and he has two interceptions.

However, in the 3-3-5 defense, the defensive line is supposed to occupy the offensive line to free up the linebackers and safeties to make plays.

Advantage: Tech

Special Teams:
Dan Burnett has been good enough so far this year. The senior is 10 for 13 on field goals and 9-10 on PATs. Hal Higgins is punting an average of 38.8 yards per kick. Redshirt freshman Willie Idlette is a dangerous return man. He is averaging 23.6 yards-per-return with a long of 90 yards.

Ryan Plackemeier has been great all year, handling kicking and punting duties for the Deacons. The sophomore is 5 for 6 on field goals and 15 for 15 on PATs. He is punting for an average of 46.7 yards per kick. Redshirt freshman Willie Idlette is a dangerous return man. He is averaging twelve yards-per-return on punts, including a 50 yard touchdown.

Advantage: Wake

Coaching:
Chan Gailey has redeemed himself with the team’s great performance against N.C. State on Homecoming day. However, the inconsistency in the level of the Jackets’ play is troubling. Let’s see which team shows up this week. Hopefully Gailey learned from the three-point loss last year in Atlanta and will have the troops prepared and up for this game.

Jim Grobe is now in his third year at Wake Forest and has a 16-13 mark as head of the Demon Deacons. A winning record at Wake speaks volumes about his coaching ability. The run-oriented/ball control offense matched with his 3-3-5 defensive scheme keep opposing coaches always fearing the upset.

Advantage: Wake

Spread: Tech by 3

TECHNIQUE

www.nique.net
Report

Tech's most significant improvement in the season was on defense. The Jackets have shocked most of their critics throughout six games in 2003. The defense has been consistently strong, limiting opponents to 16.5 points per game and 288.3 yards per game. The defense has been particularly impressive against teams with a good run game, holding opponents to 86.2 yards per game. Credit, in large part, to the conservative game plan as the dangerous Ball continues to mature. Giving sophomores "Ace" Ezizemefo and Chris Woods more touches could help open things up, as they may provide a bit more of a burst than Daniels. Daniels is the unquestioned starter, but mixing things up could keep opposing defenses off balance.

An offensive line believed to be one of the nation's best prior to the season has struggled mightily. Pass protection has been porous. Ball has been sacked 19 times and forced out of the pocket far too much, even though his improvisational skills have saved Tech on a couple of occasions. Furthermore, the line is not exactly blowing open huge holes for Tech's backs to run through. The blocking schemes will need to be reevaluated throughout the remainder of the season.

It is incumbent upon the Jackets to stick with the offensive scheme that was so effective last Saturday. Continued showings like the one versus N.C. State will allow the Jackets to improve upon an abysmal 16.5 points per game and 288.3 yards per game, numbers that are due in large part to the conservative approach taken the first five games.

Offensive Grade: C

Defense:

Tech's run defense has been absolutely spectacular. Tech is surrendering only 86.2 yards per game on the ground and has given up five rushing touchdowns. Credit veteran linebackers Keyaron Fox and Daryl Smith, as well as Tech's defensive backs for their aid in run support. Coach Jon Tenuta's defensive scheme has been largely effective from a run standpoint.

The pass defense is another story. Tech is yielding 242.2 yards per game via the pass and has surrendered nine touchdowns. Tech's athleticism but smallish corners are susceptible to vertical passing games in which they are forced into man coverage. While Tech may not be able to compensate for height discrepancies, something absolutely must be done schematically to rectify the coverage schemes. The gigantic cushions given to N.C. State's receivers last Saturday were inexplicable and were momentum-killers for a rush defense that played superbly on first and second downs. Inserting Dennis Davis and Chris Retis in nickel packages has helped the wills to be more frequently employed.

Defensive Grade: B

Special Teams:

This unit has been the most pleasant surprise of the season so far. What was largely considered the biggest question mark for this Tech team prior to the season, the play of the special teams has been outstanding to date. Senior Dan Burnett is 10 for 13 on field goal attempts and 9 for 10 on PATs. Fellow senior Hal Higgins is averaging 38.8 yards per punt. His longest punt thus far was 52 yards. Five of his punts have been downed inside the 20. The Jackets have successfully converted two fake punts for first downs, blocked a punt for a touchdown versus BYU and recovered a fumbled kickoff against N.C. State. Freshman Kenny Scott nearly returned a kickoff for a touchdown last week before being hauled down at the 10 following a 90 yard runback.

Special Teams Grade: A

Coaching:

Even though Tech recorded wins over Auburn and Vanderbilt and played exceptionally well in Tallahassee versus Florida State, the game plans had been decidedly unimaginative and ineffective from an offensive standpoint prior to last week. Give coach Chan Gailey credit for his loose offensive attack utilized against the Wolfpack.

The use of the option and stacked receiver formations kept the N.C. State defense off balance all game long. The decision to turn sensational Ball loose brings hope that the offensive shortcomings are a thing of the past. Tech fans are hoping that last week will mark the end of the Jackets' enigmatic performance in 2003.

Coaching Grade: C+

Bottom Line:

Despite the hand Tech was dealt prior to the season, the Jackets have shocked most of their critics through six games in 2003. "Despite the hand Tech was dealt prior to the season, the Jackets have shocked most of their critics through six games in 2003."

Lady Jackets start season with midnight festivities

By Kimberly Rieck

On Oct. 17, the "Ball at Midnight" will kickoff the season for the women's basketball team. There will be lots of giveaways and contests for fans.

By Kimberly Rieck

Sports Editor

Fans will get their first chance to see the 2003-04 women's basketball team Oct. 17. The team is hosting "The Ball at Midnight" at Alexander Memorial Coliseum.

The free event will get underway at 9:30 p.m. with live music and free food. The first 300 people to come will receive free T-shirts. Fans will be able to get autographs from their favorite players and there will also be various prizes given away at the event, which has been a tradition at Tech for several years.

At 10:30 p.m., there will be a series of competitions. The competitions will include 3-point shooting contests against volleyball and basketball players and a special game. "Our whole coaching staff actually played college basketball and they will be competing against the media," head coach MaChelle Joseph said.

Before midnight, the 2003-2004 team will be announced, and Tech will then have an intrasquad scrimmage at 12:10 a.m. to open practice for the season.

Joseph said it has been hard to get students to come out in years past because the men's team does not participate, but hopes it will be different this year.

"We've created a lot more excitement and free stuff to get the students to come out and look at our team," Joseph said. The first exhibition game will be Nov. 8.
**Jackets sweep ACC and local rivals**

By John Scaladi
Contributing Writer

Tech volleyball continued an early season romp through the ACC with wins over Maryland, Virginia, and Virginia Tech this past Homecoming weekend. The Jackets also defeated Georgia State. With the three-match sweep, the Jackets’ squad has equaled the 1996 team for best start in school history at 16-0.

In the process, the team also handed the Terrapins their first ACC loss of the season while remaining undefeated in conference play. Alexandra Preisser also closed out the home stand by earning ACC Player of the Week honors.

Jayme Gergen led the charge Friday against Maryland by posting a career high 17 kills while hitting .565, and Kele Eveland also chimed in with a season-high 76 assists.

Four starters ended with double-digit kills as the Jackets used a 337 hitting percentage to take care of the Terrapins in four games, 30-25, 32-16, 30-22, and 30-22.

Tech dominated Georgia State in the early match on Saturday, holding the Panthers to a .272 hitting percentage and responding with a .361 of their own. Freshman Abby Johns has more than held her own and it once again proved that Tech has the capability to win at the highest level possible.

The Jackets swept the ACC and pushed their record to 13-3 overall. The Jackets will now turn their attention to aakeup wins over Auburn and N.C. State. With half the season left, Tech’s bid for a bowl game looks promising.

Despite low expectations for the Jackets from football analysts, Tech has managed to surprise everyone with upset wins over Auburn and N.C. State. With half the season left, the Jackets’ bid for a bowl game looks promising.

**Taking a midseason look at Tech**

By Ryan Peck
Senior Staff Writer

To label Georgia Tech’s 2003 football season thus far as “erratic” would be a grand understatement. The Jackets may very well be the most unpredictable team in the entire country. How can a team that looked so formidable and played with so much passion and fire against the likes of Auburn, Florida State and N.C. State, look so discombobulated and flat in a 39-3 pasting at the hands of Clemson and a lackadaisical 24-17 overtime squeaker versus slowly Vanderbilt?

There are many possible answers. First, Tech is starting a true freshman at the most demanding position in the game for the first time in decades.

Second, Tech’s offense is overshadowed by its head coach, Chan Gailey, with substantial input contributed by running game coordinator Patrick Nix and passing game coordinator Buddy Geis. Such an offensive game plan, with multiple coaches having a decided amount of say, can be difficult to grasp and execute at times.

The Jackets’ offense has stagnated far too frequently through the first six games.

Third, this is a young, thin team. The Jackets have virtually no depth on the offensive or defensive line of scrimmage, and that is where games are ultimately won and lost. The depth issue on the defensive line of scrimmage has been more than held its own and it once again proved that Tech has the capability to win at the highest level possible.

The Jackets sweep ACC and local rivals.

**football forecast**

Tech vs. Wake Forest
Virginia vs. Clemson
Miami vs. Florida State
Duke vs. Maryland
Kentucky vs. South Carolina
Georgia vs. Tennessee
Florida vs. LSU
Michigan vs. Minnesota
Ohio State vs. Wisconsin
Arkansas vs. Auburn
Submit your picks at: nique.net/footballforecast

Last week’s winner: Bobby Walling

**on deck**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FB vs. Wake Forest</td>
<td>10/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VB vs. Duke</td>
<td>10/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VB vs. Clemson</td>
<td>10/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WB Ball at Midnight</td>
<td>10/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WB vs. FGU</td>
<td>10/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FB- Football, VB-Women’s Volleyball, WB-Women’s Basketball</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>