Track and field teams earn wins at Gator meet

By Kimberly Bieck
Sports Editor

At last weekend’s Gator Invitational, sophomore All-American Chauynne Howard led Tech’s men’s and women’s track and field teams with a first-place finish and NCAA automatic qualifying mark in the high jump. Howard’s top 10 finish was one of many for the No. 23 Jackets.

Before the meet, head coach Grover Hinsdale said, “The Gator Invitational has always been an excellent competition and it’s a very good facility. We look forward to this trip each year as we continue our preparations for the ACC Championships on Feb. 20-21.”

Fires hman Ashlee Kidd and senior Amanda Rhett placed in the top 10 for the Jackets. Kidd placed ninth in the 55-meter dash and 200 meters, while Rhett placed ninth in the 200 meters and tenth in the 400 meters.

Qualifying for the NCAA championships provisionally, senior Michael Massey and junior Shanta Smith posted season-best marks in the high jump and the 400 meters, respectively. Massey placed second in the high jump with a height of 7’1.50”. Smith placed first in the high jump with a height of 5’10.25”.

In the 800 meters, senior All-American Brendon Mahoney placed second with a NCAA provisional time of 1:50.66 in the event. In the mile, junior Neil McDonagh placed second with a season-best time of 4:13.71, while freshman David Herren placed tenth.

In the field events, junior transfer Holt McPherson placed sixth in the long jump with a NCAA provisional jump of 24’11.75”. Sophomore 1-Perfection Harris finished seventh in the long jump with a career-best jump.

Dominating the 800 meters, four Tech runners placed in the top ten for the event. Freshman Jennifer Sims finished third, while seniors Jennifer Lentz and Barton Christ finished eighth and tenth respectively.

Tech runners racked up top finishes in the 3000 meters as well. Senior Neta Ezer finished sixth in the race. Freshman Kirby Cross and Cristan Duval placed seventh and tenth in the event, respectively.

Two-time ACC Indoor Performer of the Week Montrell Person placed tenth in the 200 meters. Junior Dana Rogers finished seventh in the 35-meter dash. The men’s distance medley team, consisting of Crist, Herren, Mahoney and McDonagh placed first in the DMR event, while the women’s team of Mary Chind, Mary Durksen, Sims and Lentz came in fourth in the medley.

Tech will compete in the Meyo Invitational today and tomorrow in South Bend, Ind.

faces in the crowd

Paul McCarty
Senior
Diving

Last weekend, Paul McCarty earned the Wendy’s Georgia Tech Student Athlete of the Week award after leading the Jackets with three wins against No. 21 Kentucky and Emory University, the latter being on Senior Day. McCarty broke a Tech record on the one-meter board with a score of 335.09. McCarty has a career-high on the three-meter board with a score of 352.95. He has qualified for this year’s NCAA Zone B Diving Championships on both the one-meter and three-meter boards.

A Michigan native, McCarty was the 2000 MISCA state diving champion. He holds diving records at three different pools, including his alma mater, Ypsilanti High School. McCarty is majoring in management.

Tasha Waugh
Senior
Softball—Catcher

After splitting duties with All-ACC Catcher Lindsay Wood last year and starting in 37 games last season, senior Tasha Waugh will be starting for the Jackets behind the plate. Last year Waugh hit five home runs and allowed only three passed balls, carrying a .990 fielding percentage.

Waugh will also see action as a designated player and first baseman.

An outstanding scholar, the former valedictorian is majoring in psychology at Tech. Waugh led her high school team to the Oklahoma 4A State title in 1999 and was the Tulsa 7 Offensive Player of the Year in 1999. She holds the Oologah-Talala High School record for home runs in a career.

Lindsay Stauss
Freshman
Tennis

One of two freshmen on the women’s team, Lindsey Stauss helped Tech win against tournament host Minnesota in last weekend’s Minnesota Court Classic. Stauss won both of her doubles matches and both of her singles matches without dropping a set in singles play.

A native of Racine, Wisconsin, Stauss was a first team all-county and all-state player in tennis during high school. She is a management major at Tech and comes from a gymnastics background. She has achieved a women’s open ranking of 73. Her older brother, Tony, is the quarterback for North Dakota State, and her father was a running back and wide receiver at Wisconsin, earning MVP honors.
The men’s tennis team opened the 2004 season with a sweep of Georgia Southern at the Bill Moore Tennis Center last Saturday.

**Softball**

Tech returns several talented underclassmen to the lineup. Junior Jessica Sallinger will start for the Jackets as pitcher. Sallinger broke school and earned all-county honors in her native Colorado. Junior Karie Donovan will start on second base after leading the Jackets in last year’s post-season play with a .381 batting average. Schlechte will split duties at third base with converted outfielder junior Kirin Kamar. While in the outfield, Wissmann and Redick will return as starters.

All-American Knudsen will start at shortstop. Knudsen was recently drafted in the 2004 National Pro Fastpitch draft by San Antonio. She had a perfect game against Southwestern last season. Sophomore Laura Johnson. She only allowed three passed balls last season. Sophomore Lauren Schlechte will split time behind the plate with Waugh on the mound.

Waugh will be the main catcher this season after starting 37 games and hitting five home runs last season. She only allowed three passed balls last season. Sophomore Lauren Schlechte will split time behind the plate with Waugh on the mound.

On first base, freshman Kristina Hull is projected to start. She was the player of the year at her high school and earned all-county honors.

By Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Cagers from page 29

After falling behind 16-4, Tech had rallied to lead 35-33 at the half. Tech’s last lead was at 52-51.

In the second half, the Seminoles made 16 straight free throws to take a 73-56 lead and the Jackets went scoreless for over six minutes. Tech only made one of 12 tries from three-point range. The leading scorer for Tech was Muhammad with 14 points, while Jack and Lewis each contributed ten points.

“For our team it’s unfortunate, this showing, I thought the roughness in the first half would help, getting down that early and battling back to have a two point lead going into the locker room,” Hewitt said. “I thought we had pretty good control of the basketball game early in the second half, up 48-45, but from that point on Tim Pickett’s offense carried them and their defense shut us down. I thought the last ten minutes they just wanted it more than us.”

Submission Deadline:
February 15th

Looking for:
Artwork
Poetry
Short Stories

erato
@gatech.edu
By Ryan Peck
Senior Staff Writer

Prior to last Saturday’s ACC clash with No. 1 Duke, Georgia Tech senior Marvin Lewis said that in order for Tech to have a chance to win, the key would be to match Duke’s intensity for a full 40 minutes. The Jackets did just that and then some, but the Blue Devils still escaped with an 82-74 victory over Tech, dating back nearly eight years ago.

The Jackets busted out of the gates like a team possessed, rattling Duke into an early 15-4 deficit. The run was ignited by an Isma’il Muhammad steal and dunk. Six quick points by 7’1” Luke Schenscher added in a three to Will Bynum contributed to Tech’s fast start.

For the first time in years, Tech fans, as in years prior, felt the atmosphere become exponentially frenzied, and Duke would prove to be the beneficiary.

The Devils, led by sophomore forward Shelden Williams and freshman sensation Luol Deng, fed off back-to-back Tech turnovers, in which Devils’ intensity for a full 40 minutes. Duke’s lead reached as many as 17, before settling at five after a Williams layup with 27.2 seconds left in the half. Deng and Williams combined for 24 of Duke’s 37 first half points.

Duke’s lead quickly ballooned to 10 at the start of the second half. Following a Deng dunk and a three by Daniel Ewing, Duke had their biggest lead of the game at 42-32. Tech fans, as in years prior, felt the game slowly slipping away.

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“I thought our crowd gave us a really good lift.” Tech coach Paul Hewitt said. “Our students were great and we had a loud building. They gave us a really big lift at the beginning of the game, I just wish we could have given them more at the end.”

After the Duke game, the Jack- ets went on to face Florida State in Tallahassee last Tuesday. Florida State had previously defeated two ranked teams at home.

FSU dominated the game with help from FSU’s Tim Pickett who scored 25 of his career-high 33 points in the second half. For the third straight home game, Florida State’s Tim Pickett came on after halftime to lead the Seminoles to a victory over a ranked team. The Seminoles defeated No. 15 Tech 81-65. Hewitt switched defenders in the second half in slow Pickett down, but Pickett still made seven free throws without a miss and was 7- of 8 from the field.

See Cagers, page 28
Gailey announces several key coaching changes

By Kimberly Rieck
Sports Editor

Head football coach Chan Gailey has announced several changes to his coaching staff for next season. Gailey has promoted wide receivers coach and passing game coordina\-tor Buddy Geis to assistant head coach. Tech’s quarterbacks coach and running game coordinator, Patrick Nix, has been named the new offensive coordina\-tor for next year.

In addition, Gailey has hired Giff Smith and Brian Jean-Mary.

Smith will coach the defensive line. Previously, Smith, an Atlanta native, coached Tulane’s defensive line and served as the Green Wave’s recruiting coordinator. Smith was also a member of three NCAA I-AA national championship teams at Georgia Southern and a three-time All-America defensive end. Smith is a member of the Super Southern 100.

Jean-Mary played collegiate ball at Appalachian State, where he earned his degree in the Constitution’s athletic program. Richard did not decide until signing day to play for Georgia Tech.

As a member of the Super Southern 100, Jean-Mary came from Jacob Lonowski of Aguada, Puerto Rico, who signed with Georgia Tech.

In addition to the trio of Brown, Robertson and Richard, Tech signed Elris Anyaibe, a 6’3”, 275-pound tackle from Deerfield-Windsor School in Madison, Connecticut.

A.J. Smith, a 6’3”, 225-pound defensive end, was the brightest signee.

“Their weight is 6’3”, 225 pounds, and they can play defensive end or on the offensive line,” Gailey said.

Each ranks among the top 30 defensive linemen in the nation according to various publications. “We added two fine football players [Richard and Robertson] today, and we didn’t know how it was going to go for either one,” Gailey said.

“They were choosing among some great schools, so we were fortunate to get two very good players today.”

At quarterback Taylor Bennett of Baldwin, Missouri and Kyle Manley of Buford, Georgia signed with Tech. Bennett came on strong in his senior season while Manley, one of the top 50 players in Georgia according to the AJC, started for four seasons and led his team to a state championship this past season.

Bennett has already enrolled for spring semester and will practice with the team this spring.

Pennsylvania provided Tech with two running backs in Mike Cox and Justin Guadagni. Both are expected to play fullback or possibly switch over to the defensive side at linebacker if need be. A third running back signed was Drew Gause of Spring, TX.

“When I went on my visit I loved the campus and atmosphere of the school. It really fit me. I also love the education and the things outside of football and the city seems great,” Gause said on Insiders.com.

Joining Calvin Johnson at wide receiver are two players from the Sun- shine state, Patrick Clark of Jacksonville, and James Johnson of Winter Garden, Florida. Both are small, shifty receivers for which Tech has had success developing over the years. Tech signed one right end as well. John Morrison from Marietta, Georgia.

The offensive line was one of the Jacks’ strengths last season. Four offensive linemen were signed from the state of Georgia on the AJC list.

“All of the Jackets’ commitments this year have qualified academically.”

“We want to make sure we find the strongest academic, great athletes that we can find,” Gailey said.

However, recruiting rankings are an inexact science. According to a study done by the Miami Herald, only 14 percent of recruits that were ranked in the Top 50 in their class turned out to be named All-Americans in college.

“We are choosing among some great schools, so we were fortunate to get two very good players today.”

Chan Gailey
Head coach

“Phenicisoninsiders.com

Offensive line and will probably do the same with this class of rising freshmen.

The top three linebackers from last season are gone and holes must be filled. Along with Chambers, Tech signed Gary Guyton from Hinesville, Georgia to a scholarship.

Guyton gave Tech a verbal commitment after attending football camp this summer. Both Guyton and Chambers were among the top 50 players in Georgia according to the AJC.

Tech defensive backs look to be solid with three starters returning, but by no means resting on their laurels, Tech coaches were able to sign three homegrown players. Eric Williams, from Metter, Georgia was a highly touted safety who is built much like current free safety James Butler. D. J. Jones played for state champion Camden County in Kingsland, Georgia.

Jamal Lewis started at Jonesboro High School while playing cornerback and returning punts. All three were rated as top 50 players in the state of Georgia on the AJC’s top list.

Kyle Belcher is the Jack’s lone kicker signed this year. Belcher, from Deerfield-Windsor School in Albany, Georgia, will act as either a punter or a kicker, according to Gailey.

This class is regarded as Chan Gailey’s best recruiting class since becoming head coach.

“Obviously we think that every guy we signed has a chance to help us and be a good player at some point in the future,” Gailey said.

“Some are more ready to play than others in the immediate future, and some have higher so-called ratings than others, but we think they all have a chance to help us win a championship.”

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This year will mark the beginnings of a new sports arena when the National Pro Fast-Pitch Softball league begins its season. Players from all around the country have been recruited to play, and one of them is currently on Tech’s softball roster.

Tara Knudsen is a stand-out player on the Tech softball team with a list of records and career highs. Last year, the All-American led the ACC in home runs and earned All-ACC honors.

When the college season ends this year, she will be heading out to Texas to play for San Antonio in the National Pro Fast-Pitch Softball league. Knudsen has written her own story in Tech’s record books.

We sat down with Tara to ask what she thinks about Tech softball this year, the team begins play tomorrow, and what she thinks about playing in the pros.

Technique: What are your thoughts on the upcoming season? Tara Knudsen: I think that we have a really good chance of competing. We’re a pretty tight-nit group, and I think that has a lot to do with how a team is going to do, the chemistry of a team and if they all get along. You can have the best team in the world, but if they don’t get along then I don’t think it’s going to work.

‘Nique: What makes you love softball so much to play it day in and day out?

Knudsen: I just have a competitive nature about me and to compete, it just gives me a thrill. I just love the game. I’ve played it since I was...six years old. So it has just been part of my entire life.

‘Nique: What are your thoughts about being in the pros?

Knudsen: I am really excited about it. I am excited that women have the opportunity to play after college now. I’m just really excited about it, just having the opportunity to play.

‘Nique: Do you get superstitious when you play softball, like maybe wearing a lucky pair of socks?

Knudsen: I guess I don’t really have anything that I wear that’s superstitious, but I guess certain routines that I do, like in between each pitch when I am up to bat.

‘Nique: What is the pitcher at San Antonio?

Knudsen: On the San Antonio team, I know the pitcher. Venus Taylor, who used to coach softball here, now the assistant coach at Bradley, is the pitcher at San Antonio.

‘Nique: What are your thoughts about coming to San Antonio?

Knudsen: The opportunity to play after college now, I’m just really excited about it, just having the opportunity to play.

‘Nique: Do you know any of the other players you will be playing with at San Antonio?

Knudsen: The San Antonio team, I know the pitcher. Venus Taylor, who used to coach softball here, now the assistant coach at Bradley. So I know the pitcher and it was cold and...Louisiana was the pitcher at San Antonio.

‘Nique: Is there anything, looking back at your career at Tech, that you wish you had done differently or not done at all?

Knudsen: Probably my sophomore year when we were in the Regional finals and we had to play Florida State. They had to beat us twice to go to the World Series and that is probably a moment that I wish I could have back and replay.

‘Nique: So you wish you could have those two games back?

Knudsen: Probably that one game, the first one, because there were opportunities where we could have won the game and it didn’t happen.

‘Nique: Is there any person in particular who you have admired or inspired you to play, maybe another player or family member?

Knudsen: My family has always been really supportive in my athletics—sacrificed their time, money, everything.

‘Nique: Is your dad a big reason for your competitive nature?

Knudsen: Yeah, probably both my parents. My mom is a real independent person and that kind of made me competitive.

‘Nique: Do you ever think that you would want to come back and coach at Tech?

Knudsen: Yeah, I actually do want to get into coaching after college, whether it be right away or if I have to wait a while. I know that I would love to work with Coach Yi. I think that he knows a lot about the game and that I could benefit from that.

‘Nique: Anything that you can think of that you don’t like or that you would like to see changed about softball?

Knudsen: Things are getting better; we have the pro league now, and we are getting more recognition, but...softball is that kind of sport that you either like it or you don’t, and if you don’t, then people aren’t going to watch it. But I think that it is growing, it is on the up, more girls are coming out and playing.

‘Nique: Alright, this is the cliché question, but anything you want to say to any of the little girls who are maybe out there practicing right now?

Knudsen: Just if you like softball, and it’s what you love to do, then go out and try your best and work hard at it.
Ready, set, go
The No. 23 women’s and men’s track and field team are racing up a storm. Find out how they fared in the swim. Page 27.

by the numbers
3,535
Number of points Lauren Reimer tallied in her first-place finish at the Clemson Pentathlon. Reimer was 71 points ahead of Georgia Southern’s Kellie Mitchell.

17
Number of appearances Tech’s football team will have made on ESPN’s Thursday night after playing Virginia Tech at Bobby Dodd Stadium Oct. 28. Tech has played on ESPN’s Thursday night games since 1991.

3
Number of matches the women’s tennis team won in the doubles category, for a sweep and the team’s first dual match win of the season. Tech defeated host Minnesota to win the Minnesota Court Classic.

5
Number of returning seniors on the softball team this season. The Jack- et’s lineup is led by seniors Tara Knudsen, Soraya Reddick, Erin Voelzt, Tasha Waugh and Sara Wissmann. The team’s schedule features three teams that advanced to the College World Series and ten teams that reached the NCAA tournament.

9
By Jamie Howell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS
The ACC announces 2004 schedule
The ACC finalized Georgia Tech’s 2004 football schedule Monday and highlights include home games with new ACC members Miami and Virginia Tech. Tech will host ACC rivals Duke Oct. 16, Virginia Tech Oct. 28 in a Thursday night game on ESPN and Virginia Nov. 20.

Smith chosen for ACC honor
Junior Shanta Smith has been named the ACC’s Indoor Track and Field Performer of the Week after earning her second NCAA provisional time and a first-place mark in the triple jump at the Gator Invitational. Smith also posted an NCAA provisional time in the 400 meters.

Athletes receive weekly awards
Men’s diving champion Paul McCarthy, women’s volleyball recruit Shanta Smith and women’s tennis player Lindsey Stauss have been named Wendy’s Georgia Tech Student-Athlete of the Week for Feb. 2-8. McCarthy had three wins in four events against No. 25 Kentucky and Emory in last week’s home meet. Smith had two top 10 finishes for the No. 23 women’s team at the last weekend’s Gator Invitational. Stauss won all of her singles and doubles matches at the Minnesota Court Classic.

Gailey recruits best class yet
By Clark Nelson
By Chris Nelson
By Jamie Howell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS
Tech has signed 23 high school football players from nine different states for next season. Tech signed a total of 11 players from the state of Georgia, while the other 12 players hail from eight different states, including Missouri and Nebraska. The Yellow Jackets were able to fill needs on the offensive and defensive lines by signing eight players for those two areas.

The group includes five defensive linemen, four offensive linemen, two linebackers, three wide receivers, three running backs, two defensive backs, one combination linebacker/safety, one quarterback, one tight end and one kicker.

“Defensive line, wide receiver and offensive line were three areas of emphasis for us, and we think we were able to get some quality players at those three positions,” said Chan Gailey, head football coach.

Headlining the class are Calvin Johnson, Darryl Richard, Darrell Robertson and David Brown. Johnson, from nearby Sandy Creek HS, was the top rated receiver in the state of Georgia and one of the best in the nation. The recruiting website Insiders.com gave him the Tyrope, Georgia native a five-star rating, the highest a player can receive. He chose Tech over Georgia in a heated recruiting battle.

“(The coaches) didn’t promise me anything, but they said if I come in and work hard, I will have a chance to start next year. I know I’m going to work hard,” Johnson said on Insiders.com.

Tech’s thinnest position a year ago got a major boost on signing day as the coaching staff signed one of the highest-rated collections of defensive linemen that Tech has ever had in a single recruiting class. David Brown comes to the flats from Madison, AL. He pledged to the Jackets after being pursued heavily by Notre Dame and the Alabama Crimson Tide. Defensive tackle Daryl/Richard will continue the tradition of excellent defensive line play.

By Kimberly Bick
Sports Editor
Coming off the two most successful seasons in school history, Tech’s softball team is aiming to reach even greater heights this season. Under new head coach Ehren Earleywine, the team is challenging themselves with one of the toughest schedules in the nation. The Jackets will open up their season Saturday at the Mardi Gras Tournament in Monroie, Louisiana. The softball tournament will feature No. 9 Louisiana-Lafayette, Louisiana-Monroe, Kentucky and Garner-Welder.

Earleywine took over for former head coach Kate Madden last summer. Previously Earleywine was Tech’s assistant coach and helped guide the Jackets to a school record 52 wins. The team missed the College World Series last season by only one win.

“I think after having been to the Regional Tournament the past two years, the obvious question going is going to the World Series,” Earleywine said in a press release. “Obviously, winning an ACC Championship is our primary goal, getting back to NCAA Regionals is number two and winning the regional will be the third.”

One of the team’s strongest assets this season is the leadership from in-line, that includes five seniors—Tara Knudsen, Soraya Reddick, Erin Voelzt, Tasha Waugh and Sara Wissmann.

“We’ve taken on the philosophy that in order to be the best, you have to play the best.”
— Ehren Earleywine
Head coach

Softball season begins at Mardi Gras

On deck
Event Date
By Clark Nelson
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Lady Jackets to face No. 2 Duke
The Lady Jackets’ basketball team will travel to Durham Saturday to face No. 2 Duke. Tech will broadcast the game on WREK-Radio, 91.1 FM in Atlanta and online at www.wrek.org. Live stats for the game will be available at www.rambinwreck.com.

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Sports shorts
Next stop: San Antonio
While other seniors are looking for jobs, All-American Tara Knudsen has inked a deal to play in the pros. Check out the shortstop wonder. Page 31.

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Atlanta Thrashers number challenge
hint: signing day
Here’s the number...what does it represent?
To enter email the Sports Editor at sports@technique.gatech.edu with the correct answer to the challenge. A winner will be selected from among the qualified entries. The winner will receive a pair of tickets to an Atlanta Thrashers home game, where admission is always $10 for a seat in the $36 section with a student ID. Visit www.atlantathrashers.com for more info on college nights.

158
Number of points the men’s swim team scored against Georgia Southern Oct. 26. The Jackets defeated host Georgia Southern 158-11 to win the ACC Swimming and Diving Challenge.

31
Number of points Lauren Reimer tallied in her first-place finish at the Clemson Pentathlon. Reimer was 71 points ahead of Georgia Southern’s Kellie Mitchell.