Beyond the White and Gold

Winter Olympics need more traditional events

By Derek Haynes
Sports Editor

There are a lot of interesting events in the Winter Olympics, but few seem to flash the word “traditional” in my mind. A small number of people in the world actually participate in Winter Olympic events; when was the last time you knew someone who had actually ridden a bobsled? Here’s my list of events that I’m sending to Olympics President Jacques Regge for consideration in the 2006 Winter Olympics.

Snow Ball Square Off—No, this isn’t an event on a Nickelodeon special. Two athletes stand with their backs facing each other approximately 20 feet away. When the gun sounds, they have to make a snowball and hurl it at their competitor. The first to hit their opponent wins the round. I’m sure baseball players would cross over to this event; Chuck Knoblauch would be the lowest seed.

My money says [kids] don’t run to the pond, shovel off the snow and start a curling match.

Snow Fort Wars—This is an event that challenges the mind and the body. I like to think of it as the Winter Olympics triathlon because of the variety of skills needed to exceed. Athletes have three hours to stock up on ammunition and build a snow fortress. Each round, two teams square off and the last to have a fort standing moves on to the next round. Judges will keep track of direct hits from snowballs as well as accuracy of the throws in case both forts get wrecked at the same time. There will be both two and four member squads.

Downhill Sledding—How can this not be an Olympic event? What’s the first thing kids do when it snows? My money says they don’t run to the frozen pond, shovel off the snow and start a curling match. I’m a little concerned about how out-of-control the athletes will be flying down the skiing course, but I’m sure people can design sleds that can handle it.

Driveaway Shoveling—I remember that there were always some neighbors who shoveled their driveways perfectly; I wouldn’t even know it snowed if I just looked at the driveway. Others just made a path for visitors to walk to the front door. In this competition, athletes will shovel identical driveways and be judged on speed, costume, artistry, and general excellence. There will be single as well as two-member teams in this event.

Look out Torina in 2006.

Intramural Notebook

Pressure on for IM Hoops

March Madness is almost upon me.

This, folks, is the pressure week for intramural action. It’s a time where teams like Pike and ATLiens can cement their claims as the top seeds in the men’s and women’s tournaments.

It’s also time for Kyle Baxley and Lee Hamilton to lead their teams, and 0-4 and 23rd ranked Delta Tau Delta squad into what will surely be a very enriching spring break.

Next week I’ll be back with my playoff news and previews for both basketball and softball.

Finally, I’d like to give the Navy wallyball team some respect after a season in which they didn’t win a single set.

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increase his focus on his weight. Rob Skinner, the athletic nutritionist for the Georgia Tech Athletic Association, said, “Luke has worked hard in both the weight room with the lifting coach Scott McDonald and in the cafeteria to get those pounds on.”

When asked about his weight, Schenscher said, “I am trying to work the weights as much as I can. My time off with my injured foot was a bummer. But I just try to eat as much as I can, and then eat a bit more.”

Since his return to the game line-up, Schenscher has helped out enormously for the Jackets. Holding his own in the paint, he has helped the team keep opponents to a low 40.6 shooting percentage in the last six games. He currently leads the team in field goal percentage at 54.3 percent and in blocks with a total of 17.

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Luke Schenscher on trash-talking in one language

“...but basketball-wise, in American college games we can understand each other when we talk trash to one another.”

Yet his biggest challenge when he moved here didn’t actually have anything to do with athletics. “It was hard for people to understand what I said. I have to speak more clearly and slowly for people to understand,” he said in his charming Australian accent. Marc Connolly at ABC Sports said he sounds more like Mel Gibson than Crocodile Dundee, but Schenscher still insists, “I don’t have an accent. People here are the ones with the accent.”

Accents haven’t seemed to stop him. He has found a significant other in Jamie Ostrov, a high jumper on Georgia Tech’s women’s track team. When asked if it was difficult to date another college athlete, he replied, “It’s actually a lot easier...you can both understand the time restrictions and situations that the other is dealing with.”

Schenscher seems to have adapted well to the Georgia Tech and U.S. climate and lifestyle. Missing his family the most, and Vegemite sandwiches—made from a historical Australian sandwich spread. Second, Schenscher has accommodated to the fact that he lives halfway around the world from his home. Keeping busy with basketball training, games and school, Schenscher seems to have found a new home here at Georgia Tech and the fans are all the more happier because of it.

“The crowds for college basketball games are more intense than in international games,” he said. “The fans just get more into it.” He added, smiling, “But basketball-wise, in American college games we can understand each other now when we talk trash to one another.”

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Based on some speedy personnel and depending on the situation. Well, so far, it appears the Jackets will run early and often as seven different players have at least one stolen base. In fact, the bigger question has been when will they not run. This aggressiveness in the running game has also carried over into taking the extra base in close situations as the Jackets have already turned many singles and doubles into doubles and triples.

The new stadium dimensions may have also played a part in Coach Hall’s decision to run more, but they were also expected to slow down the long ball. This has not happened as the Jackets have 13 home runs, 8 in four home games. Jason Perry leads the team with 4 home runs, and seven different players already have at least one home run. This may actually be attributed, at least in Perry’s case, as a result of right field still being easy to reach as Tech’s left-handed hitters lead the power surge.

The starting pitching has also gotten off to a hot start with Kyle Bakker having already won ACC player of the week honors and with a 0.64 ERA and two wins, Jeff Watchko with a 1.64 ERA and two wins, Philip Perry with a 0.00 ERA and one win and Brian Burks with a 2.00 ERA and one win.

Bakker has overpowered hitters with speed and control while racking up 16 strikeouts and only one walk in 14 innings. Watchko has been just as untouchable, the junior almost pitching a no-hitter against Tennessee Tech. Both starters pitch quickly and with ruthless efficiency averaging between 11 and 12 pitches per inning.

The blowouts against Tennessee Tech have also given pitching coach Bobby Moranda an opportunity to give a series of one-inning stints to many of the other pitchers on the staff, including the college pitching debut of several freshmen and shortstop Victor Monocal. The young guns looked pretty good for the most part, but showed signs of nervousness and inexperience that were revealed in wild pitches and walks.

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Tech (11-15, 4-9 ACC) at No. 17 UVA (16-8, 6-7 ACC) Sat. 4PM ESPN2

Frontcourt
Travis Watson and Chris Williams anchor UVA’s frontcourt. Watson averages 10.5 rebounds a game. Both players average nearly 14 points a game and forward Jason Clark comes off the bench as a blocking presence. Tech’s front court is a young corps that is surprising all and is led by Ed Nelson and Isma’ail Muhammad.

Coaching
Pete Gillen is finishing up his fourth season as the head coach of the Virginia basketball team. He is characterized as having an active sideline persona and is known as a player’s coach. Tech coach Paul Hewitt is developing a young team into a potential powerhouse in the ACC. In only his first year at Tech he took an underachieving team into the NCAA tournament.

Backcourt
Roger Mason Jr. has become the Cavs front court since Adam Hall was forced to miss the rest of the season with a foot injury. Mason has over 100 assists already this season and averages 19 points per game. Tony Akins and Marvin Lewis lead the Jackets but there is little to back them up off the bench.

Intangibles
The Jackets play the Cavalier’s very well. Since 1990 the Jackets have dominated the series by winning 20 of the last 27 meetings. Earlier this year, when the Cavs were ranked seventh in the nation, the Jackets controlled the game until the closing minutes when Virginia took lead and won by a score of 69-65.

Defense
The Cavs defense is routinely lacking. At the start of their games the Cavs fall behind quickly due to poor shot selection and a weak defense. They tend to improve as the game carries on but the initial drought puts strain on the entire team. The added presence of the seven foot wall in Luke Schenscher has shut down many opposing team’s inside games and the physical play of the rest of the team can prove too much for their opposition.

Forecast
The Jackets will take an early lead since the Cavs wont be prepared for Tech’s up-tempo play. The Cavs will come back, with the help of their home crowd, in similar fashion to the earlier season game. However this time the Cavs will take the lead before the final minute. Cavs in a close one...Cavs 84, Jackets 79.

EVEN

Struggling Cavs
Virginia, who was ranked as high as No. 5 in the country at one point, has been tumbling down a very steep slope. The losing continued Wednesday at FSU, where the Cavaliers fell to the 6th place Seminoles 66-59. The Wahoos have lost six of their last eight and are it might not be too early to start sweating an NCAA tourney bid.

Tech, on the other hand, has been playing better but are not exactly tearing up the hardwood. The return of Luke Schenscher to the center position has boosted Tech’s interior defense and will show an element of the Tech team that the Cavs haven’t seen.

One advantage for Tech is that the Cavs might be looking past Tech; they close out their season against Duke and Maryland.

Atlanta Thrashers Numbers

Thrashers numbers

Explain what the number on page 32 represents, and win a pair of thrashers tickets

Last week’s winner

Congratulations to Matt Pavlick. He was the first to correctly answer that 9,15,18 are the rankings of the Tech Baseball team. After defeating Tennessee Tech three times and Wofford once the Jackets are now 8,11 and 17.
The highlights of the game were the Tech team batting around and outfielder Matt Morton wearing what looked like bell bottom baseball pants.

By Al Przygocki

The starting pitchers have been just what the chariot of the home crowd. It seemed like Tech never got to Tennessee Tech for taking the chagrin of the home crowd. Second baseman Eric Patterson made a good offensive play but over-threw to first base resulting in the first Tennessee Tech runner on base. The official scorer ruled it a hit much to the delight of the home crowd. Morton put an exclamation mark to that inning by hitting a grand slam. However, it was pre-season All-American catcher Tyler Parker that had the best overall offensive game. He ended the game going 4-5 with four RBIs. Perry added to his HR total by notching up yet another long ball in the third to bring his season total to a team-leading 4 HRs. Phillip Perry picked up the win by throwing 4 shutout innings.

It was the next unlucky recipient of Tech’s hot bats as their first home weekday opponent. Tech got another 12 runs out of an offense that seems to be clicking in all cylinders. And Tech almost shut Wofford out until a base-loaded walk in the top of the 9th broke the Wofford goose egg. Parker continued his hot streak from the previous game by going 2-3 with three RBIs. Patterson did him one better by going 3-4 but chalking up the same number of HRs. Phillip Perry picked up the win by throwing 4 shutout innings.

Freshman outfielder Jeremy Slayden slides into third after tripling to right field in Tuesday’s win over Wofford. Slayden is hitting .333 on the year.

It’s early, but Yellow Jackets are running on all cylinders

By Al Przygocki

So far, Tech has done almost everything right and almost nothing wrong. The Jackets pushed their record to 6-0 and have crept up the national rankings. Tech is currently ranked No. 8 by Baseball America, No. 17 by Collegiate Baseball, and No. 11 by Baseball Weekly–ESPN.

The hitters are dominating with power (13 home runs, 35 total extra base hits), batting average (team .361), drawing walks (53), and stealing bases (18 out of 19 attempts). The starting pitchers have been just as dominating with a team ERA of 2.00, a .198 batting average against, nearly a strikeout per inning, and only eight walks allowed in six games.

These statistics may be skewed a bit as they only reflect six games, most have been at home, and it is not yet possible to gauge the quality of the competition. That being said, the Jackets definitely appear to be living up to preseason expectations, at least thus far.

The Jackets have done much more running this year. In preseason interviews, Coach Danny Hall said that they might run more this year.
**Walking on stilts**

7 ft. freshman Luke Schenscher has to adjust to a new country, a new diet and thunderous crowds all while wearing size 17 shoes.

By Katie Neal  
Contributing Writer

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**The man behind the voice**

He calls football, men’s basketball, and baseball games for Tech. We profile a man who has made sports his life. **Next Week**

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**Hoisters look for upset**

The Jackets travel to No. 15 Virginia Saturday to take on the struggling Cavaliers. Are they prime for an upset? **Page 30**

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**Women’s track ends UNC’s indoor title streak at nine**

Renee Mettler set a school record and ran the nation’s second-fastest time in the 5000 meters as the Jack- ets out-scored the Tar Heels 122-113 to win their first ACC track title of any kind.

North Carolina had won 13 of the last 15 conference championships, but a strong team effort by Tech was too much for the Heels. Freshman Shanta Smith won the triple jump and set the school record with a jump of 41’7.75.” The 4x400 relay squad of Dana Rogers, Nicole Campbell, Jessica DeFreitas and Smith placed first with a time of 3:46.01.

The men’s squad placed third behind second place Florida State and first place Clemson.

Gunn named ACC Women’s Tennis Player of the Week

Catherine Gunn, a freshman from Winchester, England was named Player of the Week after garnering a pair of wins last weekend in South Carolina.

Gunn, who is 7-0 in dual match play, defeated South Carolina’s Kathy Boyanetz and Harvard’s Alexis Martire in straight sets.

**Ex-Jacket stars change teams**

Charlie Rogers, a captain on the 1998 football squad, was chosen by the Houston Texans as the 13th pick in the expansion draft. Rogers, formerly of Seattle, is expected to return punts and kickoffs for the Texans.

In the NBA, former Tech point guard Travis Best was part of a seven player deal that sent him from Indiana to Chicago.

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**Tech opens Ritzy C in record-breaking fashion**

Jackets out-score Tennessee Tech and Wofford 62-7 in first homestand at revamped field

By Joseph Jeong  
Staff Writer

Tech’s baseball team seems to like its new $9.7 million home. The team continued its fast start to the season by going undefeated in its first homestand at the new Russ Chandler Stadium. Not only did they beat Tennessee Tech in their first home weekend series and Wofford in their first weekday game, Tech beat them in a convincing fashion, out-scoring its opponents 62-7 over four games.

Despite overwhelming Tennes- see Tech with their offense, Tech was not the first to draw blood in the first college baseball game played in the new stadium. Instead, Ten- nessee Tech’s designated hitter Britt Claboh made Tech history by being the first player to get a hit, an RBI and a HR in the new stadium. His two run homer in the top of the 2nd inning got him onto the scoreboard and Tech’s baseball history book. However, Tech responded by ferociously defending their home turf.

Tech rattled off 10 unanswered runs over the next three innings in the wake of Clubb’s HR. The game ended in a historic note when Tech’s infield turned the first double play ever in the new stadium to give Tech its first home win of the season. Kyle Bakker cemented his status as the ace of the staff by pitching seven solid innings and picking up the win. The highlight of the game was the Tech team batting round the order in the bottom of the third and outfielder Matt Murton wearing what looked like bell bottom base- ball pants.

Tech showed no sign of slowing down in the second game as the team exploded for 21 runs in the contest. Leading this offensive pro- duction was first baseman Jason Perry, who happened to play left field in this game. He turned this game into his own personal batting practice as he abused Tennessee Tech’s pitchers for 2 HRs and came a single shy of hitting for the cycle.

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**By the numbers**

2-6

Record of the women’s basketball team in ACC play (not including Thursday’s game against Clemson after losing point guard Nina Bar- lin. Barlin averaged 8.3 ppg and 7.9 rpg.

5

Ranking of Junior Troy Matteson by the Gold/Sweek/Sagari rankings, who just won his first tournament at the Taylor Made/ Waiholo Le- gionnaire. He finished with a six-under-par while fighting 35-40 mph winds.

20-7

Georgia Tech’s recent record against Virginia in men’s basketball. The Jackets beat Virginia in all three meetings last season and lost 69-65.

62-7

Tech’s score over their last four games, three of which were against Ten- nessee Tech. In last Saturday’s game, Tech scored 11 runs in a single in- ning.

Here’s the number...what does it represent?

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