Georgia Tech (1-3) vs. Vanderbilt (1-3)

Preview By: David Rottman

Quarterback:
Florida State and Clemson figured out how to stop Reggie Ball: blitz linebackers. Tech has been unable to pick up the blitz, forcing Ball into mistakes. In the last two games Ball has been sacked eleven times, as opposed to twice in the first two games combined. Ball needs to do a better job of reading the blitz and either getting rid of the ball or dumping the ball off before the blitz gets to him. He is struggling, completing only 48.6 percent of his passes for 165 yards per game with just one touchdown and three interceptions—an efficiency of just 96.6. The Commodores will rely on sophomore Jay Cutler to lead the offense. He has played rather well so far this season. Cutler is completing 53.4 percent of his passes for an average of 201.2 yards per game.

Advantage: Vanderbilt

Wide Receivers:
Jonathan Smith has been consistently good all year. The senior has twenty-two receptions for 355 yards, an average of 16.1 yards per catch and 88.8 yards per game. However, Smith has yet to catch a touchdown pass, mainly because of the conservative nature of Gailey’s passing offense. Wide outs Erik Davis and Brandon Smith are the big playmakers for the Vandy offense. The duo has combined for twenty-two receptions for 465 yards and five touchdowns.

Advantage: Vanderbilt

Running Back:
P.J. Daniels was held to a season-low 34 yards against Clemson, with his longest run being only five yards. The former walk-on has been the workhorse most of the year for the Jackets. But Chan Gailey decided to throw the ball 42 times in order to come back from the huge deficit, leaving the Jackets without an opportunity to establish Daniels and the running game. Norval McKenzie will start but he will split carries with Kwane Doster. The duo has combined for 85.6 yards per game on the ground. The Commodores average 143 yards rushing per game, compared to 88.8 for the Jackets.

Advantage: Vandy

Offensive Line:
Eleven sacks in two games. Yes, P.J. Daniels had over 100 yards against Florida State, but Tech mustered only 45 yards against Clemson. It may rest in the hands of the Tech coaches to change blocking schemes and play-calling, but someone needs to give Reggie Ball some time to make plays. Vanderbilt’s offensive line is rather unimpressive. Justin Geisinger and Brian Stamper will start at the tackles, Brian Kovalsky and Mac Pyle will start at the guards, and Steve Brent will start at center. This unit has allowed seven sacks—four against Auburn alone—against rather unimpressive defenses.

Advantage: Tech

Linebackers:
Tech has one of the top sets of linebackers in the country. Key Fox and Daryl Smith continue to lead the team. Fox leads the Jackets with 37 tackles, four for loss, Smith is tied for second with 37 tackles and has 5 tackles-for-loss and two sacks. Vandy’s linebacking corps is young. The Commodores will start three sophomores. The leaders are Motes Osemwegie and Otis Washington. Osemwegie leads the team with 40 tackles.

Advantage: Tech

Secondary:
The only defensive back that played an exceptionally good game last week was backup corner Dennis Davis, who had an interception and a great pass breakup. The unit is still exceeding expectations; however, coverage broke down against Clemson because they were forced to cover Clemson’s talented receivers for too long a period of time. Look for Reuben Houston, James Butler and Dawan Landry to come out strong and make plays against Vanderbilt. The Commodores’ defensive backfield is rather inexperienced, starting three sophomores and a junior. This unit has three interceptions on the year, but it lacks the explosiveness and playmaking ability of the Tech secondary.

Advantage: Vanderbilt

Defensive Line:
Eric Henderson is having an All-ACC season. The sophomore already has six sacks. End Gerris Wilkinson has two sacks, as does tackle Travis Parker. True freshman Mansfield Wootto will get his third career start at defensive tackle. Sophomore Jovan Haye is the top player for the Commodore front four.

Advantage: Vanderbilt

Special Teams:
Dan Burnett missed his first field goal of the season against Clemson. The senior is still six of seven on field goals and four of four on PATs. Hal Higgins has his punt average up to 40.6. Four of his twenty punts have been downed inside the twenty. Jonathan Smith will again handle punt return duties. Smith is averaging 6.1 yards per return. Kenny Scott and Dennis Davis will return kickoffs. Vanderbilt kicker Tolga Ertugrul is just one of three on field goals, but 12 of 12 on PATs. Punter Abyrtn Iramnaneh is averaging 41.4 yards per punt. Ronald Hatcher will return punts for the Commodore; he is averaging 8.5 yards per return. Kwane Doster is a dangerous weapon for returning kickoffs. The tailback is averaging 24.8 yards per return.

Advantage: Even

Coaching:
Chan Gailey’s grace period after the Auburn win is done. Blowing a 13-point lead in Doak Campbell Stadium followed by Tech’s worst home loss in eight years is no way to try to win over fans. The offense can’t score more than 17 points and the defense is geared toward stopping the run, which Clemson exploited by throwing all over the place. Gailey’s offensive and defensive schemes are mundane and predictable. How about throwing over the middle of the field once in a while? Or playing a defense other than our base 4-3. Mix it up. Vanderbilt’s Bobby Johnson has done a lot with little talent and a small recruiting operation. Cursed by playing in the SEC, Vandy is on the right track with Johnson, who was named Division I-AA Coach of the Year in 2001 after leading Furman to a 12-3 mark and a spot in the I-AA Finals.

Advantage: Vanderbilt

Spread: Tech by 6
Kelly Anderson
Sophomore
Tennis
The first women’s tennis player in Tech history to be named the ACC Rookie of the Year, Kelly Anderson joined the Jacket’s lineups in the spring of 2003, making an immediate impact on both Tech’s singles and doubles lineups.
Last season, Anderson joined Jaime Wong to form Tech’s top doubles team and finished the season ranked at No. 28 in the nation. She is ranked No. 32 in doubles this year.
Anderson and her brother Roger, who is a senior on Tech’s men’s tennis team, are the only two Tech tennis players to earn the ACC Rookie of the Year title in school history.

Steven Blackwood
Junior
Outfielder- Baseball
This spring will be Steven Blackwood’s second season with the Yellow Jackets. Blackwood finished last season with a .353 batting average, five home runs and 38 RBIs on the board.
This left-handed outfielder from Roswell, GA spent the summer with league champion Keene Swamp Bats of the New England Collegiate Baseball League (NECBL). Blackwood ended the summer with a Most Valuable Player award for the NECBL and was ranked among the league leaders in a variety of offensive categories.
Blackwood was named to the ACC Academic Honor Roll for 2002-03, along with several of his teammates.

Lauren Sauer
Junior
Outside Hitter- Volleyball
Junior outside hitter Lauren Sauer was tabbed the ACC’s Volleyball Player of the Week this past week after leading the Yellow Jackets to three wins last weekend at the Georgia Tech Invitational against Wisconsin, Western Carolina, and South Florida.
In her third season starting for the Jackets, Sauer earned MVP honors for the tournament after tallying up 58 kills, eight blocks and five digs. Last season, Sauer hit .944 in the match against NC State, good enough for an NCAA record in a match with 15 or more attempts.
Named the 2001 ACC Rookie of the Year, this Management major from Huntsville, Alabama is the tallest person to ever play for the team.

NC State’s Washington suspended
North Carolina State wide receiver Richard Washington has been suspended indefinitely after violating unspecified team rules. The freshman was also suspended for the season opener against Western Carolina. Washington was third on the team in catches with 17 for 188 yards and had two touchdowns. The loss comes as the Wolfpack prepares for this weekend’s game against arch rival University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Gilchrist named Super Sophomore
Maryland sophomore point guard John Gilchrist was named one of five Super Sophomores by ESPN broadcaster Dick Vitale last week. Last year, Gilchrist was third on the Terps’ team in assists with 52 and averaged 4.6 points per game for the season. He shot .833 from the field during the Terps’ postseason run to the Sweet Sixteen last year. Another ACC player, Duke forward Shavlik Randolph, joined Gilchrist on Vitale’s list.

‘Noles beat No. 21 Ole Miss for title
Florida State’s women’s soccer team defeated No. 21 Mississippi in overtime, 2-1. The win clinched the 2003 Nike Seminole Classic tournament title for the ‘Noles and is the ninth time since 2000 that the soccer team has defeated a ranked opponent. It was the third consecutive win for a team which began the season 1-3-0.

Tar Heels earn fifth shutout
The North Carolina field hockey team earned its fifth shutout of the season when it defeated Miami of Ohio last Tuesday by a score of 10-0. The No. 2 Tar Heels improved their record to 9-0 with their third victory in the past four days. Miami of Ohio fell to 1-5. UNC-Chapel Hill will take on No. 1 Wake Forest tonight at Kentner Stadium in the team’s ACC opener.
more yards, but Tech had a longer possession time and fewer penalties. If Tech could have just made the right plays, find the weaknesses in the defense and maintain control of the ball, they could have made this a good ballgame, yet.

However, all of those hopes were dashed when at seven minutes into the third quarter, Ball was sacked in the Tech end zone for a safety. Tech was held scoreless for the rest of the quarter, but couldn’t hold Clemson’s momentum and allowed future top-10 Georgia Tech to score in the final 39-3 and the rout official.

Tech’s season has already been a rollercoaster of events with some extreme highs and lows. After a season-opening loss to BYU, Tech roared back with a victory over pre-season top five Auburn and then followed that up with another 16-point loss to highly ranked Florida State.

There had been some concern at the beginning of the season when Head Coach Chan Gailey started true freshman Ball as quarterback, passing over his seasoned players A.J. Nunez and Darnell Woolfolk. Ap- prehensions dissipated when Ball led Tech’s win over Auburn.

Obviously, I did not get this team ready to play this week,” said Head Coach Chan Gailey in his statement to the press after the game. “It would have been easy to point a lot of fingers, but just point them right here at me. It’s my responsibility to get [the players] ready to play.”

Tech’s game plan was praised as Clemson entered the game with 436 total yards, five sacks on Ball, an interception and a four for four showing in red zone appearances. Ball ended the game 19-for-42 with 289 yards, and the Yellow Jackets failed to score a touchdown at home for the first time since 1996. Tech normally sparking defense was lack-luster as it struggled to adjust to Clemson’s secondary.

“They’re big, tall guys that can run,” Gailey said. “They can run the ball well enough, you have to keep people around [the line] and you want to pressure the quarterback, so that leaves your corners one-on-one. They threw the ball up there and said, ‘Here’s a jump ball. Go make a play.’”

Tomorrow Tech travels to Nash-ville to face Vanderbilt in its last non-conference affair before a string of six straight ACC games. Tech will more than likely be the favorite to win this Saturday’s game, though fans and critics alike have to wonder if this is not shaping up to be the lull before the storm that Tech’s season has predicted earlier this year.

“I obviously did a poor job of getting them to understand how you have to play when things are going good,” said Gailey. “You have to go and prepare and play the same as you did the first three weeks of the season,” he said.

V-ball from page 24
during the break and came our look- ing like a different team. Tournament MVP Lauren Sauer opened the third game with two kills.

This initiated the Tech offensi- ve, as Alexandra Preiss added six kills in helping to win the third game, 30-26. Georgia Tech wasn’t much the same. Sauer knocked out eight kills with only one hitting error, taking a 30-27 win to even the match, 2-2. Wisconsin took a 2-1 lead in the final game. Tech managed to hold on to its undefeated season behind the hitting of Sauer and his defense.

The NC State game was the first conference game of the season for the team. The Jackets swept NC State three games: 30-14, 30-18, 30-27. Preiss recorded 14 kills in the win. With the team improved to 12-0-1 ACC.

“Our offense was pretty efficient but our defense seemed to lack in- ten-sity. It was good to get some conference experience for our young- er players. Now we will return to the gym to begin preparation for North Carolina,” said Shymansky.

intramural notebook

Leagues heat up as playoffs near

By Billy Sayers

Any student walking by the CRC and watch a few games during any week of play left before the playoffs, is being controlled by the Spongebubbers. The Spongebubbers, who have a perfect 4-0 record, have scored an impressive 120 points without being scored against.

All of these leagues will come down to the wire, with the pride and hopes of the players on the line. If you think that the excitement over flag football is an over dramatization, take a walk to the CRC and watch a few games during the playoffs.

For more information, see www.sac.gatech.edu/IM

Women’s League Football

Rank Team
1 Rho Mu
2 Pi Mu
3 Nu Sigma Nu

Co Rec Flag Football

Rank Team
1 Spongebubbers
2 BGDs
3 FIJI CoRec

A League Flag Football

Rank Team
1 Grand Hustle
2 Brothet Hounds
3 Backfield in Motion

B League Flag Football

Rank Team
1 Beta Dragons
2 Johnny Boys
3 Range Rovers

By Jamie Howell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS
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**SPORTS**

**Technique • Friday, September 26, 2003**

**by the numbers**

**3**

The spot in the top 10 in which sophomore Thomas Jordan placed in at the Ping/Golfweek Preview Invitational. Jordan’s finish was the highest of his career.

**100**

The number of years that have passed from Clemson’s last blowout of Tech. In 1903, Clemson had its largest victory over Tech in a 73-0 rout in 1903. The Tigers were coached by future Tech coach John Heisman.

**4-1**

Tennis player Trevor McConnell’s record for the 2003 Southern Intercollegiate Championships. McLeod reached the semifinals after beating seventh-seed Max Fomine in straight sets.

**170**

Number of yards wide receiver Jonathan Smith had in the Clemson game. It was his second 100-yard game of the season. He is now tenth in school history in total receiving yards.

**Tigers give Jackets reality check**

**Tech, fans letdown as Clemson hands team first home loss**

By Edward Tanhuberg
Contributing Writer

As the Yellow Jackets left the field at halftime, they left to the collective “boo” of the entire Tech crowd of students, alumni, parents and future students. There aren’t words for some things and the only ones that came to most people’s minds that night were embarrassing and disappointing.

Tech came into the game with the deck in their favor. They were facing a home crowd after having built up momentum with a 17-3 win over Auburn and a near victory against Florida State. Reggie Ball had declared just a week before that the Yellow Jackets weren’t “going to lose again,” and the fans found it easy to rest their faith upon the words of their new-found star.

By halftime purple-clad Clemson had tackied up 266 yards of total offense and stretched the score to 20-3. Ball was throwing only 11 for 21, counting for 121 of the Jackets’ 154 yards, but at that point there was still hope in the back of people’s minds.

Clemson had more points and

**No. 5 Tech dominates the field**

**By John Scaduto
Contributing Writer**

Though the Jackets managed a sweep of three matches in taking the Georgia Tech Volleyball Invitational last weekend and crushed NC State last Tuesday, they came within one match of watching their flawless record and No. 5 ranking vanish.

The first game of the match saw the No. 4 ranked Badgers execute near perfection, as they dominated Tech in hitting percentage .488 to .205 and took the game 30-24. Tech was able to fight back in the second game to tie the score 31-31, but a kill by Wisconsin’s Sheila Shaw and a hitting error by Lynnette Moster left the Jackets in a 0-2 hole in the best-of-five. The Badgeregion out the Jackets in the second game, .311 to .204.

“Shymansky’s squad regrouped for the first of four matches in the ACC weekend and cruised to a 3-0 sweep of Georgia Tech.”

**Tech-Vandy game on Pay-Per-View**

Live coverage of Georgia Tech’s football game at Vanderbilt will be available on pay-per-view through Comcast Cable to most digital cable customers in Georgia. Cable customers who wish to order the game may purchase it for $29.99 and can contact their local cable provider for more information. The game will kick off at 7 p.m.

**Brad joins Track and Field staff**

Former North Carolina All-American Allen Brad has joined the men’s and women’s track and field staff as assistant coach. He comes to Tech from Syracuse University, where he spent one season as assistant men’s and women’s track and field coach. Bradd will handle all throwing events for the Jackets.

**Tech Rugby falls to Clemson**

Last Saturday at the Berger Bowl, the Tigers’ rugby team defeated GT Rugby 45-12. Tech’s lone half score came on a try by Stephen von Bremser. In the second half, winger Matt Walliser dotted in the corner for an unanswered try. Tech will travel to Athens this weekend.

**Golf team places second in Preview**

Led by top 10 finishes from sophomore Thomas Jordan and freshman Roberto Castro, the Yellow Jackets placed second at the Ping/Golfweek Preview Invitational in Hot Springs, Va. The team carded the best round of the tournament with a 4-under-par 276 finish on Tuesday.

**football forecast**

Tech vs. Vanderbilt
Virginia Tech vs. Connecticut
Minnesota vs. Penn State
Notre Dame vs. Purdue
North Carolina vs. Tennessee
Florida State vs. Duke
South Carolina vs. NC State
Stanford vs. Washington
Washington State vs. Oregon

Submit your picks at: nique.net/footballforecast

Last week’s winner: Tilman

**Family ties**

Parents visited campus last weekend to check out how their money is being spent. Read what happens when the ‘rents invade Tech. Page 9.

**Lookin’ to rebound**

Tech travels to Music City to face off against the Commodores. The Jackets are looking for a victory after dropping two straight. Page 21.