

# Tech tennis twins share more than their birthday

By Derek Haynes  
Assistant Sports Editor

Sure, twins might share some things. They might share a room when they grow up, they might look similar, they might have the same taste in guys and they might sound the same.

For one, I know that last one is true. I've never had a harder time trying to remember who belonged to which voice in a tape-recorded conversation. But these twins have other things in common, some even belong on a late-night television show.

For instance, the same injury, less than a year apart?

"I had surgery on my shoulder last season and I asked the doctor if it was hereditary," said Mason Miller, a junior on the 37th ranked Tech tennis team and the older twin sister of teammate Lea Miller.

The doctor said no, but a girl named Lea happened to redshirt last season.

What was the injury?

A shoulder injury.

Which arm?

The right arm - the same arm as Mason.

Or how about dreaming the same dream, on the same day. They've done that too.

This sounds like a case for Molder and Scully.

Mason, a junior, went to Tech out of high school while Lea went to Wake Forest but transferred to Tech this fall. Lea's shoulder caused



By Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

**Twins Mason and Lea Miller share many things including a shoulder injury, dreams, SAT scores and a place on the Tech tennis team. The girls have even played each other 22 times in competition, each winning 11.**

her to redshirt the past season, putting her a year behind Mason.

Other than their tennis games, which are about as different as *The Varsity* and *The Sundial*, the twins are eerily similar. While you can tell they are twins, they don't look exactly the same. But it's not just based on appearance.

"If you were to ask me 20 questions about Lea, I guarantee we'd get the same answers. We also had the same grades, even basically the same SAT scores," said Mason.

The twins have played each other 22 times in competition—I don't need to tell you how the wins and losses divide up.

Tennis Coach Bryan Shelton has experienced their strong similarities first hand. He's called them the wrong names before, but the twins say he rarely does it. In fact, the only time they could recall Shelton calling one of them by the wrong name was the first time Lea came on campus.

Shelton, who was ranked as high

as 55th in the ATP singles rankings during his playing career, says the differences are very apparent between the two on the court.

"Mason's strength lies in her forehand, Lea's strength is as a baseline player," said Shelton.

Their complementing styles worked well during their junior careers. The doubles tandem of Miller and Miller was ranked as high as 7th nationally before they entered college. However, Shelton is reluctant to reunite the twins.

"There could be some fireworks going on that court," said Shelton. "I did try it in the fall a little bit but realized it may not be best right now."

At Tech, Lea has had some problems adjusting. She is 7-9 overall and only 3-6 in dual play.

"There are some technical parts of Lea's game that we are working on," said Shelton.

Lea says the academic rigor at Wake was just as difficult as her load at Tech, but finding time to get acclimated to Tech is hard because of the demands of an athlete's schedule. Lea also made another important observation.

"This school is a lot different socially," said Lea.

Yes, Tech is not exactly a social hive of activity.

Mason is faring better in her junior campaign. She is hovering right above the .500 mark in both individual and doubles play. She's 11-10 in singles and 9-8 in doubles.

While both of their numbers aren't pro-caliber, they don't mind.

"We both love traveling, I think we'll both end up working together," said Mason.

"Our ultimate fantasy would be to open our own fashion industry," added Lea.

The twins are combining their two favorite things by traveling to London and working in one of the fashion capitols of the world this summer.

Luckily, they don't have to worry about switching their passports.

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cleared the shorter Chandler fences, is confident Tech's struggles against ranked teams won't be a factor as the season progresses.

"Baseball is a game where you aren't going to be at the top of your game everyday, the talent is there," said Murton.

Last weekend at Virginia, the Jackets took 2 of 3 from No. 6 Virginia. Tech got strong pitching in all three games, winning 10-4 on Friday and 10-3 Sunday.

Friday the No. 3 Jackets head to No. 5 Duke for a three-game stint.

## Bats

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test a third bat.

"My question is, 'Look, if the first two failed, wouldn't it be reasonable to keep on testing the same bats and find out if others (of the same model) failed too?'"

Van Horn said he has noticed the differences in safety as well as lower offensive outputs and thinks the changes are adequate.

"By them decreasing the exit speed, it's made it a lot easier for pitchers to at least knock balls down," he said.

Wood bats, with exit speeds 10

to 12 mph slower than aluminum, would make the game even safer. But Van Horn thinks the change would hurt college baseball's excitement.

"If we went to wood bats, it would take away from the popularity of the college game," he said. "I think people like the offense. If we had a bunch of 2-1 games, it might hurt the crowd and enthusiasm."

Childress said switching completely to wood bats or metal bats that have the same output as wood bats would be OK with him.

But money is the main obstacle from allowing such drastic changes, he said.

"I think it's a great idea, but I don't ever think it's going happen strictly because of the budget limitations on college baseball," Childress said. "Teams can't afford to buy a dozen bats for every hitter."

Thurston believes that money is such a concern to the NCAA that it doesn't care about the safety of its athletes.

He said the NCAA sold out to bat companies to avoid possible lawsuits from breaking the contracts the schools have.

"The reason you don't hear your high profile coaches complain about the bats is a lot of them are making a lot of money," Thurston said, "some

of them up to \$85,000 per year plus free bats to exclusively use their bats."

Van Horn said NU has a bat contract with Easton to solely use its bats. He wouldn't comment on the specifics of the contract other than to say NU receives free bats, and the reason some schools are paid is because of competition among the bat companies.

The NCAA does not plan to make any changes in bats or balls in the near future, as the NCAA Baseball Rules Committee has opted to stand pat until at least the 2002 season.

"The work that we've done in last three years has been somewhat helpful," Thurston said.

# Ultimate clubs take Terminus II tourney

By Andrew Santelli  
*Are you allergic to jelly?*

This past weekend, members of the Tech men's and women's club ultimate frisbee teams joined forces for the co-ed division of Terminus II, held on the polo fields in Alpharetta, and had great success. Saturday, the first day of the tournament, found inclement weather that lowered the number of games that day. Nevertheless, the team went 2-1, losing by only one point in its defeat.

Sunday found the Tech team with even greater success. Their first game was a victory, which gave them a number-one seed in their pool and number-two in the tournament

heading into the elimination rounds. In those rounds, Tech won their quarter-final and semi-final matches, and found themselves pitted in the final against "30-Something," a coed ultimate club from Atlanta, and the match was a marathon by ultimate standards. The wind made the match grueling, and the teams swapped downwind points the whole time. The match lasted over two and a half hours, testing the strength and endurance of every player involved. One upwind goal was scored by "30-Something," which Tech eventually matched and ended up winning the game 17-16. The number of points scored in that game by Georgia Tech was higher than the points scored against them in the

six previous games combined. When asked how they achieved their success, team member Brady Solheim said, "In any co-ed tournament, the factor that determines the eventual champion is the team with the strongest women. Our women were the reason we won this tournament."

Once it was all said and done, the Tech team was praised for their spirit and heart. In ultimate frisbee, tournament champions are not honored with plaques or trophies, but with commemorative frisbee discs to mark their win.

After a string of impressive wins and heartfelt play in the championship, those discs have definitely been earned by Georgia Tech's ultimate frisbee gladiators.



By Amy E. Vinson / Special to the 'Nique

**The co-rec ultimate frisbee team that represented Tech in the Terminus II division of last weekend's tournament shows off their new "trophies."**

# Tech tennis takes two ACC wins on road

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By Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Sophomore Romain Coirault scored three wins last weekend playing in Tech's No. 1 spot. The wins bring Coirault to 19-14 for the season.

By Matthew Bryan  
Sports Editor

No. 23 Tech (14-4, 4-1 ACC) tennis grabbed their second straight ACC road win against Maryland in a 7-0 shutout Sunday. The win followed a 5-2 Saturday victory over Virginia.

In their contest against the Terps the Jackets took all nine matches, sweeping Maryland (4-9, 0-6 ACC) in singles and doubles. At the number one spot Romain Coirault defeated Maryland's Chris Chiu in straight sets (7-5, 7-5).

His performance was echoed in the number two and three spots where Stephen Moros defeated Jonathan Neeter (6-0, 6-2) and Alex Navinkov defeated Luan Nguyen (7-6, 6-2).

Jacket Joao Menano needed three sets to defeat his opponent Jonathan Murchison in the number four spot

(3-6, 7-6, 6-3) along with Sergio Aguirre who defeated Larry Chou (6-0, 2-6, 6-2) in the five spot. Jason Jeong rounded out the singles performance with his 6-1, 6-0 victory over Dan Kenshalo in the number six position.

Doubles pair Roger Anderson and David Wright defeated Maryland's Neeter and Chou (8-1) along with Coirault and Menano who defeated Murchison and Nguyen (8-3). And in the last doubles spot Aguirre and Moros defeated Kenshalo and Chiu (8-4).

Tech's Maryland victory came a little easier than their Saturday win over Virginia. Jackets Coirault and Anderson gave up the only to points in the number one and two spots to Cavaliers Brian Vahaly (6-2, 6-0) and Huntley Montgomery (6-4, 6-4).

The Jackets resume play against FSU in Tallahassee Friday.

Coach commented about the battle for that second string spot: "I see Andy Hall continuing to get better and showing more poise; that's what he didn't have last year. He's come a long way last since year. Mark is where Andy was last year at this stage. Mark has the ability to make plays, but he's still trying to see the whole picture." While Mark Logan produced some productive scrambles, which resulted in large gains, at times it seemed like he was looking for the run before the pass. This should change as he matures into more of a college player.

"We've still got to work on the run game and on stopping the run and we've got to establish the timing in the passing game, which is usually the last thing to come around," however overall "I thought it was a good day," O'Leary stated. And hopefully there will be many good days ahead for Tech fans.

# Coaches still at odds over bat changes in college game

By Vince Kuppig  
Daily Nebraskan

(U-WIRE) U. Nebraska—Southern California outlasts Arizona State 21-14 in a four-hour thriller. No, that's not a headline from a Pac-10 football game.

Games similar to that 35-run marathon in the championship game of the 1998 College World Series, in which 32 offensive records were broken, were not rare that season.

Thanks to new rules and restrictions, times have changed since the 1998 season, which capped a decade of offensive growth. The changes have allowed the return of scores typical of baseball, not football scoreboards.

"It used to be (low scoring games) on Friday and then 'let's see who can outscore who on Saturday and Sunday,'" Nebraska pitching coach Rob Childress said. "Now, pitching is a little more dominant in college baseball. You don't see the seven-, eight- and nine-hole hitters hitting 10-plus home runs every year like you did three years ago."

While college baseball now sees lower scores, is it safer with its new bat regulations?

Last June, at the NCAA Regionals, All-American Shane Komine, Nebraska's No. 1 pitcher, suffered a broken jaw compliments of a line drive up the middle. One day later, a Butler pitcher's jaw was broken in the same way.

"I really didn't have time to react to the ball," said Komine, who maintains that he feels safe on the mound despite the incident.

"I've pitched 13 years of my life

without having anything like that happen to me," he said. "And for it to happen this one time, I'm not going to let it affect the way that I go out there and play everyday."

Said NU Coach Dave Van Horn: "Anytime you play sports, there's always a chance you're going to get hurt. I think baseball is one of the safest sports there is. Naturally, when you're swinging the bat and hitting the ball, there's a chance you're going to get hit on the body somewhere."

Other figures in college baseball

"I thought the bat we were using three years ago was a little too lively."

**Dave Van Horn**  
Nebraska Head Coach

disagree.

Bill Thurston, baseball coach at Amherst College and a former member of the NCAA Baseball Rules Committee, walked out of a Rules Committee meeting last July and in effect resigned after serving 15 years as its editor. Thurston said he didn't think the NCAA was doing enough to make college baseball safe.

"I didn't want to be a part of what was going on with the NCAA and its change of concern about the safety issue to less concern," Thurston said.

The history of aluminum bats in

college baseball dates back to their debut in 1974.

The game didn't change much from when aluminum was first introduced until the 1980s, said Thurston, who is in his 36th year as Amherst's coach.

"Then in the mid-80s it started escalating. In the mid-90s, you had a tremendous jump in the offense performance," he said.

The 6.07 runs per game in the 1990 would jump more than a run by 1998 - a year that saw a .306 batting average, 7.12 runs per game, 1.06 home runs per game and a 6.12 earned-run average all surpass previous highs in college baseball history, mostly set the year before.

Starting in 1999, the NCAA implemented a two-pronged test for college baseball bats. The maximum weight-length difference was changed from five to three (a 34-inch bat could not weigh less than 31 ounces) and the maximum diameter of the barrel was shrunk from 2 3/4 inches to 2 5/8 inches.

A batted ball exit speed of no more than 97 mph as tested in the lab became the third prong for the 2000 season.

"I thought the bat we were using three years ago was a little too lively," Van Horn said. "The barrels were very big. They needed to cut them down a bit. I think they did a good job. I really like the way the bats are right now. I think it's good for the game."

Along with the third prong, the NCAA also switched its official ball from Wilson to Rawlings with many conferences to follow. It was a change that Thurston said he believes had

the greatest effect on lowering offensive production for the 2000 season.

After studying conferences that switched to the deader Rawlings, Thurston said all saw significant decreases in averages compared to conferences that maintained the status quo Wilson or Diamond balls.

Whatever the cause, the effect has been evident in college baseball.

The overall Division I batting average dropped from .306 in 1998 to .297 last season, but more signif-

"By them decreasing the exit speed, it's made it a lot easier for pitchers to at least knock balls down."

**Dave Van Horn**  
Nebraska Head Coach

icantly, scoring averages have declined from 7.12 to 6.53 runs per game while home runs went from 1.06 to .80 per game.

The Big 12 alone, which now uses Rawlings balls, saw extensive decreases in offensive production. Since 1998, the home run averages have nearly been cut in half, from 1.37 to .73 last season.

"Back when it was minus-five and 2 3/4 inch diameter, it was just out of control," Childress said. "Bad hitters were getting jammed and balls were going out of the park. When the good hitters got jammed,

they still went a long way."

Childress said pitchers can now pitch on the inside corner without fear of having each pitch there taken out of the yard.

The changes, which Van Horn said have been welcomed by most coaches, have also brought strategy back into the offensive game, he said.

Executing hit and runs and bunts are now a vital part of the game, Van Horn said, which blends perfectly with NU's scrappy, run-manufacturing style of play.

Said Childress: "With our type of team, we really try to focus on speed, defense and pitching. I really don't think our team would be affected if we went to wood bats because our focus is on speed offensively."

While the statistics speak for the decrease in offensive production, it's unclear whether increased safety, often mentioned as a main reason for the bat changes, has been achieved as well.

Serious injuries, Thurston said, are hard to quantify because they go unreported or are settled out of court.

Thurston, who said he has noticed some differences in offense and thinks college baseball is slightly safer, said the NCAA did not follow its exit speed of 97 mph adopted for the 2000 season.

For a bat model to fail the test, three bats of the same model had to have exit speeds more than 97 mph, according to Thurston. Six of seven models tested would have failed, Thurston said, but the NCAA didn't

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## SPORTS

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## Tech tennis twins

Meet tennis players Mason and Lea Miller and learn more about what these tennis-playing twins have in common. Page 31

## Spotlight on Ultimate

Tech's Ultimate Frisbee club team is this week's club sport spotlight. Learn why they all have new frisbees. Page 33



# Baseball tops State, takes two from Cavs

By Derek Haynes  
Assistant Sports Editor

Someone driving by Russ Chandler Wednesday evening might have thought Tech's baseball home was converted into a football stadium by the 23-4 score. However, nothing could be further from the truth.

The Jackets (24-7, 6-3 ACC) dominated Georgia State (14-18) in all facets of the game Saturday thanks to a pair of homeruns from

freshman Matt Murton and four solid innings of work from starter Brian Sager (2-0).

The Jackets have now won 10 of their last 12 games, including 5 of 6 in ACC play.

Murton, who went 3-4 with 8 RBIs in the game, blasted his third and fourth homeruns of the season in the win.

"I've been working on my swing a little bit and got comfortable in the box," said Murton, "things just

took care of themselves."

Sager, who has been nursing a sore arm, was limited to 60 pitches by manager Danny Hall but managed to strike out 6 and walked only one.

"I'm pleased with what I saw in him, he can be a big factor for us if he can get his arm strength back up," said Hall.

Tech got to Panthers starter Jason Payne (0-1) early on, scoring 2 runs in the first and erupting for 11

in the third to take a 13-0 lead. Tech added 5 more runs in both the fifth and ninth innings. Both of Murton's homeruns came in the 11-run third inning.

Shortstop Richard Lewis went 4-6 in the game and scored four runs to tie third basemen Victor Menocal for the team lead with 41 runs.

The Panthers would get to Tech reliever Aaron Walker in the eighth, scoring 4 runs on 4 hits for their

only runs of the evening.

The teams combined to use 11 pitchers in the non-conference game, Tech using 6 and the Panthers 5. After Sager, five Tech pitchers each pitched one inning highlighted by closer Jeff Watchko who struck out the side in the ninth to lower his ERA to 1.50.

Murton, who blasted two balls at Virginia that would have easily

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# Lady Jackets split doubleheaders with Southern and FSU

By Jody Shaw  
Managing Editor

After a week of home contests that included games with both Florida State and Georgia Southern, the Lady Jackets finished even-even.

The Tech softball team split a doubleheader to open its ACC season last weekend against 16th-ranked Florida State; the Lady Jackets lost their morning game, but they bounced back in the afternoon to earn the split with the Seminoles.

Freshman pitcher Erin Voeltz, who started the second game of the FSU doubleheader, picked up the victory after pitching a complete game. For that effort, and her wins earlier in the week against Harvard, Voeltz was named ACC Softball Pitcher of the Week. She finished her award-winning week with an ERA of under 0.40 and 14 strikeouts.

In the FSU doubleheader, the Seminoles struck first in the third inning of the early game to take a 3-0 lead. Those runs were all the Seminoles needed, as their

starter Leslie Malerich held Tech scoreless throughout the rest of the game and in the win to up her record to 12-2 with a final score of 7-0.

The second game differed markedly from the first; it was a classic pitching duel between Voeltz and FSU's Jen White-Stokes. The Seminoles scored a run in the first inning, holding Tech scoreless until the sixth when they evened the score. Both teams had chances to score in the seventh inning, but left the score tied at the end of regulation.

The Lady Jackets broke the stalemate, however, in the eighth when Tara Knudsen connected on the first pitch she received from FSU reliever Jessica van der Linden and sent it over the fence in left field for her second homer of the year and a 2-1 Jackets victory.

On Wednesday the Lady Jackets faced in-state opponent Georgia Southern at Glenn Field. Like the FSU doubleheader, they dropped the first game to the Eagles, but rallied in the extra

innings of the second game to split the series.

In the first game the Jackets fell behind in the third inning after a timely hit by GSU's Stacie Coopers scored two runs. Tech scored in the fifth and closed within one run, but the team ultimately lost 4-2.

Again, like FSU, the second half of this pair also proved to be a pitcher's duel involving Voeltz. This time her opponent was the Eagles' Aimee Littlejohn. After remaining scoreless for nine innings, the Eagles struck in the top half of the second extra frame.

The Jackets answered in the bottom, however, with an RBI single by Erin Glantz, tying the game. Glantz eventually scored the winning run on a wild pitch to give the Lady Jackets the victory.

The win represented Voeltz's fourth straight victory and upped her record to 11-8 on the year.

The Yellow Jackets will play again on Wednesday when they travel to Athens to take on the Georgia Bulldogs in a doubleheader.



By Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Pitcher Tiffany Goodman picked up the loss in the first game of Tech's doubleheader with Florida State. Goodman has compiled a 7-6 record and a 0.82 ERA.

# Spring scrimmage highlights new QBs, strong defense

By Derick Stanger  
It was a bright, rainy morning

On an overcast, wet Saturday morning the only rays of sunlight came from the fans dreams of next season. While still several months away from the opening game with Syracuse on August 26, the Jackets already show promise for new year.

During Saturday's scrimmage Tech's defense seemed to outshine the offense, something expected at this early stage of the spring. "Both sides had their turn, but the defense probably had the edge—and they should have the edge this time of year," said coach George O'Leary. However, O'Leary suggested that the defense "maybe should have made more (plays)."

In the coming weeks both the offense and the defense along with the coaches will be able to look back at the tapes made of the scrimmage to analyze what was done right and wrong on both sides of the ball and determine what should be emphasized and what needs to be corrected.

At times the defense played perfectly. On two consecutive plays field goal attempts were blocked by a charging front line. Several times they also managed to cause losses of

yardage. It's possible that their performance would have been even more impressive if they were allowed to play at a hundred percent. Because this was only a practice, to avoid injuries the quarterbacks were labeled as hands-off. Therefore, on many occasions, rushing defensive linemen had to let up and simply tag the QB instead of delivering their disastrous blows.

"I thought it was a good day."

George O'Leary  
Head Football Coach

On a couple of these instances when the ball would normally be knocked from the QB's clutches or he would be tackled for a sack, the pass was completed successfully. However, this will all change as the faces across the line of scrimmage change from that of Godsey, Hall or Logan to the unfortunate opponents that will have to endure the Jackets' sting.

The reason why the defense is usually more prepared at this time

of the preseason is because the offensive playbook is usually more complicated. The connections between players must also be formed more so than that between their defensive counterparts. During the offensive battle timing and routes must be exact. An unspoken connection must be developed between the wide outs and the quarterback so deep that they must know what the other is thinking. For instance both wide out and quarterback must notice the defense being played against them and make the same decision about whether or not the receiver should break off his route.

What made this more difficult was the fact that some of the key parts of these connections were missing during the scrimmage. Among those absent were tailback Joe Burns and quarterback George Godsey. Replacing Burns was redshirt freshman Jimmy Dixon and returning Junior Sidney Ford who combined for 177 yards. Replacing Godsey during the scrimmage was a trio of redshirt freshman Mark Logan, returning sophomore Andy Hall, and a transfer from the University of Tennessee A.J. Suggs.

Of the three A.J. Suggs was most dominant, showing impressive pocket presence, along with a strong arm



By Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Last year's defense stands in a huddle during the Wake Forest game. During Saturday's scrimmage it was the defense that looked the strongest.

and good aim. During a scramble, instead of taking a sack or throwing an interception, he kept his composure and threw the ball out of bounds. Unfortunately due to NCAA regulations, since Suggs is a transfer player he will not be eligible to play until the 2002 season. So it remains a fight between Logan and Hall for

the backup position to Godsey for next season.

During their turns on the field they both played well yet not spectacular. O'Leary said, "They both made some good throws and some checks, which I was happy to see."

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