by john scaduto

Contribution Writer

Philip Rivers is the stereotypical college quarterback. At 6-5 and 230 lbs, his NFL-type size has helped him to compile over 8,900 pass yards with 61 touchdowns during his three-year career. Even more astounding may be the fact that in 1,410 pass attempts, Rivers has a completion percentage of 60 percent with only 27 interceptions. The quarterback from Athens, Alabama, has torched the ACC and ACC record books—both currently leads both in passing yards, completions, total offense, 300-yard games and passing attempts.

If he continues at the current rate and N.C. State makes a bowl game, Rivers will finish the season with over 4,500 passing yards, putting him at tenth on the NCAAs all-time list of yards in a season. So not only dragon boat [racing] but opportunity to increase participation in boat racing as well. "The worst that can happen is that I'll have a degree from N.C. State and I'll go to work," says Rivers on CollegeFootballNews.com.

And as far as life after N.C. State football, it has always been Rivers' dream to play in the NFL. His size is obviously not an issue, but a throwing motion that leaves his release point a little low for NFL scouts. Rivers also gave some advice to fellow freshman-starter and possible future Heisman hopeful Reggie Ball, saying "the thing is to be patient, because when you're starting out, it's hard to get used to the speed of the game...but [Ball] seems to be carrying himself well and is a smart player!"

This weekend will see if Ball can have enough patience to direct his team to victory against the experienced, Rivers-led Wolfpack.

For more information on Rivers, check out www.philiprivers.com.

KAYAK

Making the race interesting was the fact that none of the participants had an opportunity to race the boats beforehand. The 39-foot teakwood racer, complete with a fierce-looking dragon's head at the prow of the boat and a tail at the boat's stern, are challenging to race because all 20 rowers have to be in sync.

In the first heat, the GT boat defeated the Clemson boat by a small margin in a race that lasted less than two minutes. Later in the heat against corporate division winners, both the Wolfpack and Tech boats were defeated by margins of less than twenty seconds. At the awards ceremony, Tech walked off with first place in the collegiate division and the "Clemson" boat received a second-place trophy. AT&T Dragoners swept the competition in the corporate races.

"Collegiate participation is rare in events like this, so it was cool to be involved at the beginning of something," said Sarah Riley, president of the kayak club at the Georgia Tech rowing program.

The race may become a tradition for the kayak club as well. "The Hong Kong Federation has proposed that we host our own collegiate drag boat sometime in the next year. That would be an excellent opportunity to increase participation in not only dragon boat [racing] but also in canoe and kayaking," said Riley.
Quarterbacks:

Reggie Ball is very good for a true freshman. Phillip River is very good period, no qualifiers needed. Rivers is on pace to become the most prolific passer in N.C. State and possibly ACC history. Rivers is averaging also 350 passing yards per game and has a ludicrous passing efficiency rating of 174.55. Furthermore, Ball has started to show signs of the growing pains facing young QBs in his last two games. Rivers wins this contest in a runaway.

Advantage: N.C. State

Wide Receivers:

While Johnathan Smith may be great, Jerrold Crotchery might be the best in the ACC. Statistically, Crotchery is a runaway winner, having hauled in over 500 yards already and poised to make a run at Tony Holly's school record. However, in Smith's defense, Tech's offense isn't as pass-happy as N.C. State's wide-open offense. Even so, it would be hard to argue that Smith is better than Crotchery. Tech might have more speed overall at this position but N.C. State has much more depth. Tramain Hall and Brian Clark have both caught over 200 yards for the Wolfpack.

Advantage: N.C. State

Running Backs:

P.J. Daniels performance so far has been very satisfactory, except for his three fumbles. Not a flash back, Daniels has grinded out 340 yards on the ground on 90 carries, showing great durability at that position. Daniels' counterpart, T.A. McLendon, is the exact opposite. A big play back who can be a threat as a receiver as well, McLendon is always dangerous when healthy. However, ever since he entered the ACC, McLendon has been struggling with injuries. Despite some nagging injuries, McLendon ran his way to ACC Rookie of the Year honors last year. This year, Josh Brown has had the most carries for the Wolfpack with 45, while McLendon has seen limited action at in three games with just 32 carries. Tech had success last year against McLendon, limiting him to just 49 yards on 17 carries, even though he did pick up a touchdown. If healthy, McLendon gives N.C. State a big edge in the backfield but so far his production has been limited.

Advantage: Even

Offensive Line:

The offensive line was supposed to be the strength of Tech's offensive unit. While their play has been adequate for most of the season, except against Clemson, it has not quite lived up to the lofty preseason expectations. The experienced and talented line, led by Nat Dorsey and Hugh Reilly, has already given up 14 sacks this season. N.C. State's line, which is anchored by senior Chris Colmer, has fared better, having only allowed nine sacks in comparison. Both lines have the experience, starting mostly juniors and seniors, but the talent on paper seems to favor the home team.

Advantage: Tech

Linebackers:

There is no one on N.C. State's linebacking corps that can match the big play ability of Kayvon 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 from this position.

Advantage: Tech

Secondary:

In the past three games, N.C. State has given up an average of over 400 passing yards to their opponents. The average passing efficiency of the opposing quarterback as been 145.62. The only team that didn't score a passing touchdown on this secondary was Wake Forest, but that's because they run a flexbone offense and ran for over 200 yards and scored four touchdowns on the ground. Even Western Carolina scored a passing touchdown and almost racked up 200 yards in the air against the Wolfpack secondary. While Tech has problems in the secondary as well, they are small in comparison to the Wolfpack secondary.

Advantage: Tech

Defensive Line:

Eric Henderson might be the biggest surprise for Tech this year, even surpassing Ball, if he continues his amazing performance. He is currently averaging a sack a game. Reinaldo Moses leads the N.C. State line with three sacks, and as a team the Wolfpack have 12 sacks for the season. N.C. State's line is very young, with only one senior starter, but Tech is even younger with no senior or junior starting. This will be a battle of talent and not experience, but one that Tech should win since this group has shown that they are growing up very quickly.

Advantage: Tech

Special Teams:

Dan Burnett has been solid for Tech but Adam Kiker has been as consistent and has the edge in experience, having been on the job for the past two years for the Wolfpack. Tech has the slight edge returning kicks but N.C. State has done quite a bit better with punt returns, having already returned three punts for a score. Punting seems to be improving for N.C. State as the season progresses along as their average improved from about 38 yards to over 40 yards. Tech should win since this group has shown that they are growing up very quickly.

Advantage: Even

Coaching:

Chan Gailey has been a head coach at Troy State, Samford, Birmingham Fire and the Dallas Cowboys and an assistant coach with numerous NFL teams. Experience is not something he lacks. Chuck Amato has been a long time assistant coach at the college level before finally taking over at his alma mater in 2000. Amato has quickly achieved success at N.C. State, enjoying winning seasons and going to a bowl in each of his first three seasons. Gailey has found the going a little tougher and hasn't exactly endeared himself to the Tech faithful like Amato has done with the N.C. State fans. Some of the criticism laid against him though has been unfair, since he inherited a program that has lost a lot through graduation, academic ineligibility and injuries. He will be given time by the powers that be to work through all these, but developing Ball to his fullest potential in the next few years will go a long way in winning Tech fans over. Many Tech faithful would also like to see him replicate the success he had as a NFL offensive coordinator and bring back the glory days reminiscent of a Friedgen led Tech offense.

As of right now though, Amato's college coaching resume looks more impressive.

Advantage: N.C. State

Spread: Tech by 3
John Paul Foschi  
Senior  
Football- Tight End

This senior tight end had the game-saving play for the Jackets in their win last Saturday in Tennessee over Vanderbilt. John Paul Foschi, the six-foot-four, 240-pound Building Construction major from Glen Head, NY, caught a six yard touchdown pass from Reggie Ball to tie up the game for Tech.

Foschi, who also had a tying touchdown in the fourth quarter against N.C. State last season, is the top tight end for the Jackets’ offensive game. His career highs in both yards and receptions, both against the Citadel, occurred in the 2001 season, when he had to sit out the final three regular season games after breaking a bone in his right eye socket.

Thomas Jordan  
Sophomore  
Outfielder- Baseball

Thomas Jordan led Tech to a second-place finish at the Ping/Golfweek Preview Invitational last week against 14 of the top 20 teams in the country. Finishing ahead of 19 preseason All-American golfers, Jordan’s final score was only two shots away from the individual lead.

Jordan, a sophomore who played in 11 tournaments and finished with a top-10 placement last year, rounded out last week’s tournament tied for third place in individual placement and had his career best performance. A native of Sea Island, GA, Jordan recorded a seventh place finish at the World Com Junior Classic and was ranked among the top-10 players in the nation in 2002.

Marko Rajevac  
Sophomore  
Tennis

A sophomore from Belgrade, Yugoslavia, Marko Rajevac defeated teammate Zachary Rath to win the Green Singles draw consolation bracket of the Baylor Intercollegiates last week. Rajevac, advancing to the final round because of a walkover against Texas Tech’s Teddy Dibiasi, took the match from his teammate with a 7-6 score in a tiebreaker in the third set.

Rajevac, who lettered for three years at Cardinal Gibbons High School in Fort Lauderdale, FL, helped lead his high school team to a national championship in 2000 and three state championships in 2000-2002. Rajevac, who is a Management major at Tech, has a brother named Vuk, who is a junior on the Rice University tennis team.

Looking to get involved on campus?

Join the Technique staff
Kayak club competes in dragon boat race

By Kimberly Rieck
Sports Editor

It was nine years ago that Atlanta got its first glimpse of the legendary dragon boats from Hong Kong. The race has since grown from a handful of teams and a few spectators to a field of over 30 teams and 2000 spectators at this year’s Eighth Annual Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival.

The festival was held at Lake Lanier, the same venue that hosted the 1996 Olympic game’s rowing and kayaking events. In addition, the festival boasted a wide variety of Chinese artisans, food and a photo opportunity with a lookalike Jackie Chan.

Separated into the collegiate division, Tech’s Sprint Canoe and Kayak team competed against Clemson.

“This is the first year we’ve had college students and we actually had to add a collegiate division. We’ve had college students who have participated in other teams but not as an organized team,” said Gene Hanratty, executive director of the Hong Kong Information Center of Atlanta.

The Hong Kong Federation also worked hard to find the collegiate team sponsors as the entry fee was several hundred dollars.

The Clemson boat actually only had one student from Clemson, thus Tech rowers filled up the rest of the spots so there could be a separate collegiate division. Besides racing in a separate collegiate heat, both the Tech and Clemson boats raced against the corporate divisions that included several local companies and teams including AT&T and the Lake Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club.

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Hockey

from page 32

Hockey play with assists by Ledyard and Jacobs at just after the 11 minute mark. Tech went into the third period with a commanding 3-0 lead.

With just under five minute remaining, Ryan Hughes opened the third and final period with a power play goal with an assist from Sweeney. Drew Jacobs scored his first career goal in the 13th minute, and the scoring was capped when Kyle Stage scored the sixth Tech goal of the night.

“The first game on the road is definitely a blessing, and is especially good for the rookies,” said Sperlich. “The road game really helps everyone get to know each other. Everything happens together whether it be that we have just one mode of transportation, or being in rooms that are right next to each other. It definitely helps the team chemistry.”

The first home game will be held at Ice Atlanta tonight at 9 p.m.

We want your opinions!

Let us know what you think about the paper.

E-mail opinions @ technique@gatech.edu
Landry capitalizes on quarterback experience in new role

By Ryan Peck
Senior Staff Writer

Dawan Landry capitalizes on quarterback experience in new role...
Tech sends Vandy onto thin ice

After only dropping five games out of 32 last season, Tech’s ice hockey club team has managed to repeat its success with a thrilling opening win against Vanderbilt. Tech faces Texas 9:30 p.m. tonight at Atlanta.

By Michael Clarke
Contribution Writer

Tech ice hockey opened up the season with a dominating performance against Vanderbilt last Friday. In its thirtieth, the GT Hockey Club is the oldest club sport on campus. Tech finished with only five losses out of 34 games last year, and they have reduced the schedule this year to 26 games.

“Without the efforts of Coach Stathis the program wouldn’t be where it’s at right now,” said Roland Sperlich, goalie. Sperlich recorded his first shut out of the season, stopping all 21 Vandy shots, including the two minutes in the second period when the Commodores had a two man advantage.

The deep Tech bench features four lines, all of which see substantial ice time. Don Anthony opened up scoring for Tech with just over 12 minutes left in the first period with a power play goal. He received assists from Ledyard and Zaucha.

The game was very hard-fought; the Vandy players were really going after the Tech players, even going as far as trying to throw themselves into their legs. This led to a few early fights, the first of which featured rookie Christian Gattung. Jay Kinzer scored the second goal at the eight minute mark of the second period, and Michael Zaucha scored the third goal on a power play.

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