mance was outstanding,” pitching coach Bobby Moranda said. “I thought his execution was really good. He made two mistakes, and that’s very good for eight innings. One of those mistakes was just flaky. He threw a fastball to a left-handed hitter, and he hit the ball down the line where it rolled around for a bit. The kid on first base was able to run, which is how they scored the go-ahead run. I’ll take that for the rest of the year with him.”

Tech responded by blowing out Maryland 24-4 in the series finale. The Jackets capitalized on five errors and scored four or more runs in four different innings. The offense was led by Tyler Greene, who hit his third grand slam of the season and drove in eight runs. The 20-run margin of victory was Tech’s largest in ACC play since beating Virginia by 23 in 1998.

After losing to Auburn 7-6 in 11 innings previously, the Jackets returned the favor by beating the Tigers 3-2 on Tuesday. Auburn took a 2-1 lead in the first inning, but they did not score again for the rest of the night. Tech drove in a run in both the second and third innings to win the game.

“I was very pleased with [the win],” Hall said. “After the first inning, Ryan Turner really settled down and pitched well. Tim Gustafson came in and did a great job of putting zeros on the board, and then Matt Wieters pitched great to close it out. We made some great plays defensively to help the pitchers out. I think that Trapani made a couple of nice plays, and Danny Payne’s diving catch in centerfield was huge, and then Andy Hawranick blocked a ball in the dirt and threw a guy out at second base to keep them from getting a guy in scoring position.

For the second time this season, Auburn used six pitchers against Tech to slow down one of the top hitting teams in the ACC. The Auburn bullpen has given up only two runs to Tech in 16 innings of work on the season.

“Auburn, twice now, has pitched a bunch of guys against us,” Hall said. “Sometimes you benefit as a team if you see a guy the second and third time through the order. Both times they’ve kept us from getting much of a look against their pitchers. They’ve done a great job of pitching against us.”

Tech will be hosting Winthrop in non-conference action this weekend before the team will go on the road to face rival UGA on Wednesday night.

“I think we better be prepared to play,” Hall said. “This non-conference team is one of the Top 50 in the country, and their number one pitcher is 7-0 with a win over Clemson. They are one of those teams that nobody knows a lot about, but those of us in college baseball know that they are very good.”

Jeremy Slayden takes a pitch for the Jackets. Slayden has a .390 batting average this year and leads the team with 42 RBIs.
Freshman wins three silver medals

Tech freshman Chandler Alfred from Conyers, Ga., won three silver medals at the USA Weightlifting Junior National Olympic Weightlifting Tournament in St. Paul, Minn.

Alfred took second in the snatch with a lift of 264 pounds. He lifted 347 pounds in the clean and jerk and also finished second for his total lift.

Alfred has previously won two national championships in the 170 pound weight class and one championship in the 187 pound weight class.

Women’s tennis stays hot

Tech’s women’s tennis team has continued its success in ACC play, improving its league record to 6-0 with victories over Virginia and Maryland.

Against Virginia Kristi Miller and Alison Silverio earned singles and doubles victories for the Jackets as they won 6-1.

In the match against Maryland Silverio and Miller along with Lyndsay Shosho and Kelly Anderson won at singles and doubles to lead the Jackets to a 5-2 victory.

Howard named Athlete of Week

For the second time this season, junior Chaunte Howard was named the Female United States Track Coaches Association Athlete of the Week. Howard notched a season-best mark in the high jump and also participated on the women’s 4x100 relay team.

Spring from page 32

"I think think Calvin [Johnson] is actually playing better right now than he did last year, which is really good to hear," Geis said. "I’ve never been on the other side of the hill. I’ve never been on the back end of a defense/page 6.

"I think Calvin is actually playing better right now than he did last year, which is really good to hear."

Buddy Geis
Wide receiver coach

I can do to get better as far as pass blocking. There are other things to being a running back, so I can be a better football player on the field," Choice said after practice.

Choice, originally from Riverdale, Ga., enrolled at Tech in January after transferring from Oklahoma. He appealed to the NCAAs waiver criteria and was granted a waiver last Friday due to exiguous family circumstances that necessitated him to move closer to home. Choice spent two seasons at Oklahoma, including a redshirt year in 2003. He will have three seasons of eligibility at Tech, beginning next fall.

"We'll give him more work now that it's a definite," Gaj- ley said. "He's done a great job thus far. He's been one of the more impressive players in spring practice."

Spring practice has also seen some changes at quarterback for Tech. The most obvious is which is the temperament and consistency of Reggie Ball. Though Ball has read the defense with consistency and we are putting it together as a unit like we were last year, is he making mistakes that he seemed to carry with him last season seem to have disappeared.

When asked if he felt like the team had anything to prove this year, Ball said, “No. Just got to go out there and play some football.”

The defense is proving yet again to be the real strength for Tech. Defensive Coordinator Jon Tenuta has consistently balanced one of the best defensive programs in the country, and this year seems to be no different.

"Coach Tenuta is very aggressive and that is how we feel. We run a pretty aggressive defense," corner-back Reuben Houston said after practice. "We don't want to give the quarterback any chance to make any reads; we disguise a lot."

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Football corner back

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The loss of senior free safety James Butler has been of some concern, but it has not seemed to dampen any of the player’s spirits about the upcoming season. In fact the defense has never been more alive.

In practice every loss of a yard invokes some kind of celebration from the defensive line and more often than not rookie quarterbacks Kyle Manley and Taylor Bennett have difficulty finding an open receiver against the unit.

“We feel like we are pretty solid back there we are just working on doing the little things right — eliminate and minimize mistakes and come together as a unit like we were last year,” Houston said. “We are basically looking to gel at the position we are in right now.

Although the team’s performance this spring has been encouraging, they still have a long way to go before they start the season at Auburn. Their next practice is this afternoon.
V-ball from page 31

Eveland, an All-American setter for the Jackets, said Laband had an extremely successful fall campaign, leading the ACC in assists.

In addition to DeMichelis, who is now working with the Jackets, the three other recruits will bring impressive resumes with them to Tech next fall.

Kellogg is a 6’1” outside hitter and a member of the 2004 USA Junior National team. She helped the Central Ohio Volleyball Club to a seventh place finish at the Junior Olympics in 2004.

Miller is a 6’1” middle blocker who was a member of the 2003 and 2004 USA Volleyball Junior National A-2 team, one of the best teams in the nation.

Niekamp, a 6’0” setter, was also a member of the USA Volleyball Junior National A-2 team in 2003 and 2004.

Laband stresses the importance of practicing in the spring season. “In the spring season you want to start building your team and establish your foundation so that the new players can come in the fall and fit right in.”

Lindsey Laband

Volleyball setter

“...in the spring season you want to start building your team and establish your foundation so that the new players can come in the fall and fit right in.”

Laband is looking forward to working with the new squad and playing the first match of next year in front of the Jacket faithful.

Although the Jackets lost many players from last year’s team, Tech still has plenty of reasons to be excited. In addition to Laband and Gray, Abby Showers and Jennifer Randall, key members of last year’s team, also return for the Jackets along with middle blocker in Nikki Kaminskas and outside hitter in Ulrike Stegemann.

“I’m excited for our first game in the gym to see how the fans react to our new players,” Laband said. “We have new members but we’re still the same Georgia Tech team.”

Young softball pitcher blossoms

By Patrick Odone

Assistant Sports Editor

The softball team, with a record of 35-9, is ranked No. 19 in the country and currently sits atop the ACC. While senior Jessica Sallinger continues to dominate from the pitcher’s circle, the future of Tech pitching lies in sophomores Sarah Wood.

Wood has a 10-2 record with a 2.06 ERA, and she has thrown three complete games this season. She also helps the Jackets offensively, where she is hitting .246 and has a .373 on-base percentage. While it’s not unheard of for a softball pitcher to step up to the plate, her offensive capabilities are certainly a nice asset.

Wood said that she does whatever she can to help her teammates—whether from the circle or in the batter’s box—and she was quick to mention how the team helps her when she is pitching.

“The whole team is great. You can see that my strikeout numbers are really low. They’re not as high as [Jessica Sallinger’s], but that just goes to show you how incredible my defense is behind me. They’re making the plays, and so that’s why I’ve been successful—just because of my teammates,” Wood said.

Wood also noted the role the catchers play during a game. “One person particular that’s really helped me out this year is Lauren Schlachle, one of my catchers. She catches for me a lot. It switches between her and Savannah [Brown],” Wood said. “They both do a great job. Lauren and I really connected, and she’s really helped me out a lot as far as talking to me on the mound. She has something about her that just calms my nerves when I’m out there,” Wood said.

A Marietta, Ga. native, Wood started playing softball at the age of eight with her church slow-pitch softball team. By 12 she was in a fast-pitch softball league, and at 13 she started pitching. Her brother played little league baseball for a while, but other than that her family had little exposure to the diamond.

“My dad was a wrestler in high school, and my mom, she was a synchronized swimmer in high school, so [they] had no background at all. My dad knew what he knew just from common knowledge of the game, but my mom was just about her that just calms my nerves.”

“My dad was a wrestler in high school, and my mom, she was a synchronized swimmer in high school, so [they] had no [softball] background at all.”

Sarah Wood

Softball sophomore

“I think we’re just going to continue to get better,” Wood said.

The softball team hosts N.C. State for a three-game series this weekend. Tomorrow they play in a doubleheader with games scheduled for 12 and 2 p.m. Sunday’s game is at 12 p.m. Wood usually pitches one game of the Saturday doubleheader.

This Wednesday the team travels to Athens to take on UGA for a 6 p.m. game. It will be the first time the two teams have met since the NCAA Regionals last year.
The volleyball team has started spring practice and looks to rebuild after a successful 2004 season that saw the Jackets in the sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament. The Jackets finished last season undefeated in the ACC and look to continue the success they have encountered over the past few years, but Tech faces quite a challenge to sustain this level of excellence with the loss of five seniors who had outstanding careers.

“We have a number of new young players who will be playing key roles for us next season and there’s no better way to gain experience than during the spring season. This also gives our returning starters the chance to develop stronger leadership roles which will carry over to next year,” said Volleyball Head Coach Bond Shymansky.

Tech’s recruiting class for next year features four players named to the Volleyball Magazine Fab 50 list, a compilation of the best 50 high school seniors from 2004. Laura DeMichelis, Talisa Kellogg, Callie Miller and Allie Niekamp all made the list. Only four schools in the nation had four or more players named to the list, putting Tech in elite company.

DeMichelis a 5’10” outside hitter who enrolled at Tech in January and is currently practicing with the team. DeMichelis and current freshman Lindsey Gray will be called upon to fill the outside hitter positions that All-Americans Lauren Sauer and Lynnette Moster leave behind.

“You really can’t replace Lauren [Sauer] and Lynette [Moster] because they have so much experience,” said current junior setter Lindsey Laband. “But Lindsey [Gray] and Laura [DeMichelis] are really physical and really good blockers. They’ll create good names for themselves here at Tech.”

Laband certainly knows about replacing star players. Last spring she was trying to fill the shoes of Kele Friday lectures more interesting
**Sports shorts**

**Men’s tennis tops Wake Forest**

Tech’s men’s tennis team squeaked by Wake Forest 4-3 at the Bill Moore Tennis Center on Sunday. David North sealed the victory for the Jackets with his win at the No. 2 singles spot. Gveseliani and Jordan Delass also had singles victories in the match against the Demon Deacons.

The win followed a 7-0 loss to No. 5 Duke on Saturday. Rath was the lone Jacket who was able to take a set against the Blue Devils’ highly ranked squad.

**Tech Sports Day set for April 16**

Tech Sports Day sponsored by Delta Airlines has been scheduled for Saturday, April 16. The day will include a football scrimmage, baseball, softball and tennis.

The final spring football scrimmage begins at 10:30 a.m. Admission is free. A street festival on top of Peter’s Parking Deck will begin at 11:30.

The baseball team plays Florida State at 1 p.m., softball challenges UB at the same time, and women’s tennis against Duke begins at noon.

**Football springs into action**

By Edward Tamsberg

**Contributing Writer**

In the two weeks since school returned from break, football continued to improve in spring practice. They are beginning to fill in the gaps left by last year’s seniors and are building on the strength of the team’s veterans.

The coming season is shaping up to be one of the best. All of this year’s returning starters have performed well in practice and fresh faces are stepping up. However, many of the concerns shared last year by fans and alumni have yet to be worked out.

Tech’s largest issues in the coming season will undoubtedly come from the areas it has lost the most starters at-wide receiver and the offensive line. These past two weeks, the Jackets have seen growth in both positions, but they are certainly not settled.

Calvin Johnson has locked up the starting job at the ‘Z’ wide receiver position, and journeyman Damarius Bilbo appears to be the frontrunner to start on the other side of the field at the ‘X’.

“I think [Johnson] is a big plus for us. I think [Bilbo] is running our ‘X’ with James Johnson on there,” Chris Dunlap’s running the ‘Z’ behind Calvin, [along with] Xavier [McGuire], those top two right now are doing a pretty good job for us,” Wide Receiver Coach Buddy Geis said after practice on Tuesday.

Calvin Johnson has continued his stellar play from his freshman year to lead the Jackets receiving corps throughout spring practice.

It is safe to say that Johnson has built on his impressive freshman season and continues to be a star for the Jackets. In a play in Tuesday’s practice, Johnson was guarded tightly by the defense, and when a ball intended for him was intercepted, Johnson quickly stripped the ball from the defender in one motion before he could fall to the ground, popping it into the air and catching it for a completion.

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**Baseball falls from top spot**

By Michael Clarke

**Senior Staff Writer**

The Jackets keep on winning as they pulled out three of the four games this past week. Tech’s only loss came in a pitcher’s duel against Maryland that was sandwiched between two blowouts. The team avenged the loss to Auburn two weeks ago by returning the favor on their home field.

Tech opened up the weekend with a 13-4 lead against Maryland before the game was delayed in the top of the 5th inning because of the rain. When play resumed Maryland scored four runs to quickly close the gap, but the Jackets stopped the Terps and won 13-8.

Before the start of Saturday night’s game, Head Coach Danny Hall was presented with a plaque and a ball signed by the team in honor of his 50th win at Tech.

In the nightcap, the Jackets and Terps traded first inning runs before the pitchers took over the game. Maryland added a go-ahead run in the third inning to take the lead.

Lee Hyde pitched what was quite possibly his best performance of the year, striking out 10 batters and giving up two runs off of six hits.

“Unfortunately for him, the offense never was able to get over the hump and take the lead. Tech was unable to capitalize with runners in scoring position, leaving 11 runners on base. The 2-1 loss was the first home-loss to Maryland since 1993, and it also ended the Jackets’ 16 game winning streak over the Terps.

I think your goal anytime you play in the ACC is to win the series,” Hall said. “That’s a very positive thing. The game that we lost was just the case that [Ben] Pinfreff of Maryland pitched a great game, and we tipped our caps to him. He did everything that he could do to keep us from scoring. It’s one of those deals that we felt that we would get to him but never could. That’s the only disappointment in that game. It would’ve been great to win all three, but we did win the series.”

“I thought [Lee Hyde’s] perfor-