**Yellow Jacket spikers on a roll**

By Finny Turner  
Contributing Writer

The Lady Jackets' Volleyball team is off to their best start since their 1996 season. Having won seven of their first eight games, with a loss only to number 14 ranked North Carolina; it looks like good things are coming for this exceptional athlete.

The most fundamental change from last year came after the resignation of the team's head coach, Shelley Collier. Collier served the team for eleven years and elevated them to the winning tradition that all Tech fans have come to enjoy. Collier left with no hard feelings for the program after he decided to relocate to North Carolina to be with his fiancé. His successor, Bond Shymansky, is in his third year at Tech after serving as defensive coordinator for the past two seasons.

"We are so lucky to have Bond as our new head coach. I have a ton of respect for him as a coach and as a person. If for no other reason, I would want to win just to make Bond successful," said this year's co-captain Lauren Sauer.

After finishing third in the ACC last season, the coaches Poll placed Tech as No. 3 in the ACC. Ranked behind only North Carolina and Duke in the conference, the Jackets' three captains, Kele Eveland, Alexandra Preiss and Lauren Sauer are ready to lead the team into a successful year.

Eveland, a junior from Grand Rapids, Michigan is a returning captain who holds the school record in most assists in a match. Eveland led the offense to a No. 1 ranking in the ACC last year for kills per game.

Preiss is a middle blocker who had a breakout season last year. She was named the team's Most Improved Player Award both of her years at Tech. She shares the school record for blocks assists in a single match.

Finally, Sauer, the third captain, is known for her defense and passing. She is the 2001 ACC Rookie of the Year and the tallest person to ever play volleyball at Tech.

Last weekend the team won the Georgia Tech Courtyard by Marriott Classic by upsetting No. 22 ranked Louisiana and also defeating Florida A&M and Miami of Ohio.

To top off their success, the Jackets traveled to Athens to contend with their arch-rival UGA on Tuesday. Tech came out on top with their four games to one victory. This marked the fourth consecutive win over the Dawgs.

"We’re happy to walk away with a win over our arch-rival. Georgia is a much improved team this year and made us work hard the entire match. Once again great play from Lynnette and Alexandra, who led the way for us. Our offense was very aggressive tonight," Shymansky said.

The Lady Jackets are definitely on a roll, and they hope to continue their dominance as they take on the Bulldogs at 7:30 p.m. at O'Keefe Gym.

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**Atlantic Station work**


**Time for Thai?**

Lookin' for some good grub? Check out the Tamariand Thai Restaurant. Page 19.

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**on deck**

**Event**  
WW vs. Michigan State  
F vs. Clemson  
MCC at Bulldog Stampade  
WCC at Bulldog Stampade  
WW vs. South Florida  
WW- Women’s Volleyball  
MCC- Men’s Cross Country  
WCC- Women’s Cross Country

**Date**  
9/13  
9/14  
9/14  
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9/14

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**ESPN to air Tech-Clemson battle**

The Atlantic Coast Conference football opener for both the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets and the Clemson Tigers will be broadcast at noon on Saturday on ESPN. Radio coverage on the Georgia Tech-ISP Radio network is available in the Atlanta area.
The Georgia Tech football team faces its first real test of the season this Saturday. The Jackets open up conference play at rival Clemson, in a nationally televised ESPN game set for a noon kickoff in Death Valley.

The Tech-Clemson series has been one of the most compelling series in recent college football history. The past six gridiron battles between the schools have all been three-point decisions. The Jackets have won four out of five from their friendly neighbors to the north. The Tigers snapped their four game losing skid to the Ramblin’ Wreck last season by defeating Tech 47-44 in an overtime thriller in Atlanta.

Tech is 2-0 going into the Clemson game, having steamrolled non-conference patsies Vanderbilt and Connecticut by a combined margin of 76-17. The Tigers rebounded from their bitter opening season loss to Georgia by throttling Louisiana Tech 33-13 last weekend.

In its first two games, Tech has ridden the back of speedy junior tailback Tony Hollings. Hollings, currently the ACC’s leading rusher, has amassed 298 rushing yards in just slightly over four total quarters of play, good enough for nine yards per clip and six touchdowns. He has sat out the majority of the second half of both games to this point, giving way to Tech’s backups. Hollings has put to rest many of the questions regarding the inexperience of Tech’s running game, which was much maligned prior to the season with the departure of Joe Burns, Tech’s workhorse the past two seasons.

A.J. Suggs has performed solidly at quarterback, playing mistake-free football and throwing for 268 yards while connecting on three touchdowns. Like most of his first-string comrades, Suggs’ playing time has also been limited mainly to first half action, as the Jackets have cruised to cushy-soft halftime leads the first two weeks.

“Clemson has very good team speed, and they’ll be bigger than anybody we’ve faced so far, and the atmosphere will be different.”

Head Coach Chan Gailey speaking about Clemson tomorrow afternoon.

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A.J. Suggs’ receivers will need to perform as well as Kelly Campbell did last year if the Jackets home to escape Death Valley with a victory.

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Clemson

Clemson has utilized this type of passing offense since head coach Tommy Bowden set foot on campus in 1999. The average height of Clemson’s four leading receivers is 6'4. Tech’s starting cornerbacks, Marvous Hester and Jonathan Cox, are 5'11 and 5'10, respectively.

Defensive coordinator Jon Tenuta will need to formulate a game-plan designed to keep Clemson’s physical receivers in check. While coaching at North Carolina last year, Tenuta’s scheme was brilliant as the Tiger offense was off-balance all game, mustering but three points and losing by 35.

Look for safeties Jeremy Moyres and Cory Collins to provide support in coverage. Tenuta may also look to employ Tech’s nickel package, bringing in Kelley Rhine as a fifth defensive back on third down situations. The nickel was noticeably effective against U.Conn last Saturday.

Junior Willie Simmons inherits the quarterback reigns from former Clemson star Woody Dantzler. Tech fans may recall that Simmons replaced Dantzler after halftime two years ago in Death Valley when Dantzler was hampered by an ankle injury. Simmons is not the scrambling threat that Dantzler is, but he has a good arm, quick feet, and a vast knowledge of the offensive system. In two games this season, Simmons has thrown for 407 yards and two touchdowns against LA Tech. Clemson misses the workmanlike efforts of its second all-time leading rusher, Travis Zachary, who was lost to graduation. However, Kelly may be a worthy candidate to fill that void for the Tigers in 2002.

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Clemson misses the workmanlike efforts of its second all-time leading rusher, Travis Zachary, who was lost to graduation. However, Kelly may be a worthy candidate to fill that void for the Tigers in 2002. He is a versatile back who is fully capable of carrying the bulk of the rushing load.

Clemson’s defense, much like Tech’s, is laden with experience. Directed by former Auburn defensive coordinator John Lover, the Tigers are surrendering a meager 242 yards per game, and have already forced six turnovers. One of those was a fumble returned for a touchdown against Georgia.

Look for Clemson to crowd the box in an attempt to slow down Hollings, and also to bring heat on Suggs, who has not faced a formidable defense in nearly two whole years. Through two games Tech has not even begun to scratch the surface of the offensive and defensive playbooks.

The Clemson coaching staff has very little idea of what to prepare for when breaking down film on the Ramblin’ Wreck. The Jackets have played relatively basic football on both sides of the ball thus far. There has been hardly any misdirection or fly Swings from the line backers prior to the snap on defense, and just an overall reserved approach taken in pummeling Vandy and U.Conn.

Expect that to change in Death Valley. Tech will most likely open up the playbook and let it ride tomorrow. Expect Suggs to throw the ball between 30-40 times. Hollings will continue to tote the ball, but for all four quarters this week.

Look for the Tech defense bring some heat on Simmons, especially if the Jackets can force the Tigers into some third and long situations. Unlike Tech’s first two games, the Jackets’ starters will likely play the entire 60 minutes. Coach Chan Gailey expects his team to be well prepared.

“We’ll be focusing this week on making sure we take advantage of every opportunity,” he said. “Everybody understands that this is a big ball game, and we’ll try to make sure our guys understand the sense of urgency necessary to prepare for a game like this.”

This game should give the players, coaches, and fans a good idea of exactly what type of team Tech has. A win would most likely catapult the Jackets into the polls and set up an exciting Top-25 clash with BYU on September 21 in Atlanta. The past six meetings with Clemson have been nail-biters that have gone right down to the wire. Expect the 2002 edition to be no different.

“This will really let us know how good we are,” middle linebacker Daryl Smith said. “We’re looking forward to a great game.”
Gridiron grind is on

By John Parsons
Senior Staff Writer

I had planned to dedicate this column to the U.S. Open, the great events that define the opening weekend of the NFL.

The U.S. Open created some moments worthy of mention, my favorite of which was Andy Roddick asking the judge, “What are you doing?” in his quarterfinal loss to Pete Sampras.

Then the NFL came around and what a Sunday it was. In case you missed it, Sunday was an incredible day of close games. Ten of the fourteen games were decided by eight points or less, and the Texans didn’t increase their lead to nine until less than three minutes to go.

Speaking of the Texans-Cowboys tilt, the Texans can thank Tags for their opening week matchup with a Dallas team that appears was heavily overrated by the pre-season prognosticators. Quincy Carter is still definitely, shall we, a “work in progress.”

I’m just waiting for Jerry Jones to fire Dave Campo and start calling the plays himself. I can hear him now, “Quincy, throw that brown thing to somebody on our team. No, not three feet over his head, throw it to him. That’s it! You’re fired too!” At this point he’ll start quarterbacking the team himself as well.

The moment that stuck out the most was Dwayne Rudd’s world record helmet toss that cost his Browns an opening week matchup against the Chiefs. Rudd got to Chief’s quarterback Trent Green and slung him the Chiefs. Rudd got to Chiefs quarterback Trent Green and slung him the Chiefs. Rudd got to Chiefs quarterback Trent Green and slung him the Chiefs.

The unique thing about this call was that the holder (also the Browns punter) was the guilty party.

That’s not even the end of the story. The Chiefs’ great field position for their final drive was created by a taunting penalty by the Browns on their go-ahead field goal.

What bothers me about this was the explanation. He thought the game was over and he was celebrating. Apparently the NFL rulebook states that throwing one’s helmet is on par with the seven deadly sins until time runs out in the fourth quarter. Then a player can do whatever the heck he wants. Some players sniff coke; Rudd throws helmets.

Members of the Georgia Tech track at the Buckhead Gymnastics Center. The one-year old team that was the brainchild of Tara Hayden will compete in the national club gymnastics championships in Austin, Texas.

Tech gymnastics club leaps into second year

By Al Przygocki
Senior Staff Writer

Last September, freshman Tara Hayden had a dream. No, not the kind of dream that Martin Luther King, Jr. had or the kind of dream that inspired men to walk on the moon, but an important dream nonetheless. She had a dream to start a Gymnastics team at Georgia Tech. It took a lot of time and a lot of curtaining through red tape, but by November, Hayden and her fellow gymnasts had a recognized team, began to practice, and things were rolling.

It’s a club sport, but they hope to one day become a varsity program. In the meantime, the program got a real shot in the arm when they were invited to participate in Nationals. The team finished 19th out of 30 teams which is an amazing finish for a first-year program. This year the team will be attending three meets, including Nationals in Austin, TX, a meet with Emory, and one more at either the University of Indiana or Miami, OH. With one Nationals appearance under their belts, they hope to place in the top ten in this year’s Championship event.

Most of members were gymnasts anywhere in high school but haven’t been active in the sport for a while. They were happy to have another chance to once again participate in one of their favorite activities. As a club sport, they aren’t allowed to recruit, but they believe that this year’s team may have some variety quality competitors who simply chose Tech over other schools with varsity level teams.

The team received a lot of support from Director of Intramurals and Sport Clubs Dan Hazlett. Hazlett helped Hayden deal with all of the requirements of founding a club and helped her through the red tape. Last year, they were named Burdell’s Best New Organization, and this year the club is still working to become a fully chartered organization with SGA.

Currently, the team practices at the Buckhead Gymnastics Center three nights a week, and they also have optional conditioning sessions twice a week at SAC. One reason that stops many schools from having a team is the unsavory quality of training equipment. Very few schools can afford to purchase their own gymnastics equipment, and even the best teams often have to practice in private gyms.